

M25 gang convicted

Fast escape route used in murder and robbery trail

By Ray Clancy

Three men who earned notoriety as the M25 gang were convicted yesterday of murder, rape and robbery during a rampage through the Surrey stockbroker belt.

The three, who used the orbital motorway round London as a fast escape route, all face a minimum sentence of life imprisonment.

The men, aged 21, 23 and 25, who cannot be named because they face further trials, were found guilty at the Central Criminal Court of murder, three counts of robbery and causing grievous bodily harm with intent. They will be sentenced on Friday.

The eldest defendant was led to the cells forcibly after refusing to sit down, apparently stunned by the verdict.

The court was told they carried out a night of "horrific rampages", masked and armed with guns and knives, on December 16, 1988. They left Mr Peter Hurlbrough, a hairdresser from Croydon, south London, dead, and a robbery victim, Mr Timothy Napier, close to death.

The men, in a stolen car, came upon Mr Hurlbrough, aged 57, in his Austin Princess car parked in a field at Black Man's Lane, Cheltenham, Surrey. Mr Hurlbrough, who had a heart condition, was ordered from the car, trussed

up, badly beaten about the head and chest and kicked. He died later.

Then the robbers stole £10 from Mr Alan Ely, aged 20, who was with Mr Hurlbrough, and drove off in the Princess car.

From there they went to a house at Woodhouse Lane, Otford, Surrey, where Mr Richard Napier, aged 66, a retired businessman, and his wife Margaret, aged 65, lived. At the time their son Timothy, aged 41, was staying with them.

Father and son tried to "have a go" and managed to hold the robbers behind a glass door. But the intruders slashed at Timothy Napier, severing an artery in his left arm.

Despite losing his strength rapidly, he managed to dial 999 - but was so weak the operator could hear heavy breathing. Police managed to trace the call to the house.

The third target was the home of Mrs Rosemary Spicer at Hillyfield Lane, Fetcham, Surrey, where the gang arrived at 5.30am. She and her friend, Mr Peter Almond, aged 36, were woken at gunpoint and tied up while the gang ransacked the house, taking jewellery, credit cards, cheque books and other property.

The robbers took both the

couples' cars and returned to their base in south London.

The jury unanimously convicted all three of murdering Mr Hurlbrough, robbing Mr Ely, of £10; causing grievous bodily harm with intent to Mr Napier, robbing the Napier home and of a second robbery at the home of Mrs Spicer. On the direction of the judge, they formally acquitted the three of attempting to murder Mr Napier.

Asking for an adjournment, Mr Julian Bevan, for the prosecution, said one of the three convicted men was facing a charge of attempting to murder a policeman near Dartford, Kent, on January 6 last year. A fourth man, who was not in the dock yesterday, faces two charges of robbery.

The remaining two men convicted had pleaded guilty to robbery and one had additionally admitted rape. But in each of their cases, no further trial was likely.

Mr Bevan asked Mr Justice Auld to adjourn the case until Friday while it was decided how next to proceed against the three and against a fourth man.

The convictions came at the end of a six-week trial. Two of the men have previously admitted their involvement in the rape of a 32-year-old woman in December 1988.

Perrier pledges to recycle reject bottles

By Michael McCarthy
Environment Correspondent

The UK distributors of Perrier water last night said they would recycle all the 40 million distinctive green glass bottles they ordered to be destroyed 10 days ago after traces of benzene were found in the water.

The company had earlier said that half of the bottles would have to be crushed and disposed of in landfill sites, as there was not enough recycling capacity in Britain to cope with them under the company's own deadline of one month.

However, after criticism from environmental pressure groups, the company announced that the glass from the 20 million bottles sent for crushing would be recovered from storage at landfill sites later this year and be sent on for recycling.

"We are delighted that we have found a solution," said Mrs Wenche Marshall Foster, the chairman of Perrier UK. "We are a highly-responsible company."

Friends of the Earth said yesterday that not to have recycled the bottles would have been "a dreadful waste of a perfectly good resource".

Mr Blake Lee-Harwood, of the group, said: "We are very pleased Perrier are doing this. 'Now perhaps they will recycle all their bottles when they start putting them back into the shops.' This is a challenge they should rise to."

The millions of Perrier bottles being recalled all over Europe are being recycled, the company said.

It could not comment on what was happening with Perrier bottles in the United States.



Rejected Perrier bottles are bulldozed at a dump in Thorpe, Surrey. Perrier now says all bottles will eventually be recycled.

Sanderson 'whistled at owner of gym'

A fitness instructor yesterday said that her former lover, Mr Derrick Evans, had claimed that he met Miss Tessa Sanderson, the athlete, after she had whistled at him.

Mrs Terry Clarke, who used to work at Mr Evans's gym and who said she had had an affair with him, told the High Court that the incident had taken place in the bar park of the north London gym.

She said that Mr Evans, aged 37, a fitness instructor, had told her that Miss Sanderson had whistled at him as he went to a car and that was how they had met.

Mrs Clarke was giving evidence on the sixth day of a libel action brought by Miss Sanderson, the Olympic and Commonwealth javelin champion, against the publisher of the *Sunday Mirror* and *The People* over articles last March that alleged that she stole Mr Evans from his wife, Jewel.

Earlier in the hearing, Miss Sanderson, aged 33, had said that she did not know how to whistled.

Mrs Clarke also claimed that Mr Evans had told her that "Tee and Dee" on the nameplate at the gym stood for Tessa and Derrick. When she realized that they were in business together she "did not want to believe it". "I did not want to be squeezed out," she said.

Mrs Clarke admitted speaking to Mrs Evans about the affair between Miss Sanderson and Mr Evans, who live together at Brondesbury Park, north-west London. She described Mrs Evans as a "very distressed and unhappy lady".

Mrs Clarke said that her relationship with Mr Evans had broken up in July 1988 and she had walked out of the business.

Mr Steven Warr, a journalist, told the court that he had spoken to Mr Leon Hickman, the ghost writer for Miss Sanderson's autobiography. He had hoped that Mr Hickman would "dish the dirt" on Tessa, but he had refused.

Mr Richard Hartley, QC, for Miss Sanderson, suggested that Mr Warr had been "mesmerized" by Mrs Evans. He said: "You swallowed her story book, line and sinker."

Mirror Group Newspapers, Mr Warr and Sandra White, another journalist, deny libel. The case continues.

US surgery helps cerebral palsy boy

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

A crippled British boy is learning to walk unaided after complex operations on his legs were made possible by a pioneering "movement laboratory" in the United States.

A £1 million appeal has been launched to open a similar centre for disabled children at a London hospital.

The boy, Emmett de Montigny, aged 13, of Lewisham, south London, was born with deformed limbs caused by cerebral palsy. Surgeons in America broke his legs in five places and transferred seven of his leg muscles to correct the deformities.

They did so by following a precise blueprint of his movement disorders, provided by computerized measuring equipment, at the Newington Children's Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut.

The hospital's movement laboratory is regarded as the world's leading centre of its kind. It uses electrodes attached to muscles and infrared cameras to produce computerized, three-dimensional data on the movements of the pelvis and each of the joints of the lower limbs.

After six months of physiotherapy, Emmett has almost

no need for crutches and can play a gentle game of football, although he still uses a walking stick. "I can walk a lot better now and use much less energy," he said yesterday.

He said he hoped that thousands of other cerebral palsy sufferers could be helped by the One Small Step charity, which took him to America and is now raising funds for the British centre, to be based at Guy's Hospital, London.

The appeal was launched by Professor Brian Neville, head of neurology and developmental paediatrics at the Institute of Child Health, London. Professor Neville, who arranged for Emmett's treatment and went to America with him, said: "The movement laboratory has done a lot to get him on his feet. He has a much better style of walking now and is much more upright. He should make further improvements."

Professor Neville said the new unit could be operational by the end of this year. It would pioneer orthopaedic surgery in cerebral palsy for the benefit of disabled children and be a national centre for research and teaching.

Blasphemy ruling sought Rushdie book 'brought 30 deaths'

By Robin Young

Mr Salman Rushdie's book, *The Satanic Verses*, had struck at the core of Muslim society in Britain, fomented violent demonstrations all round the world and occasioned the death of 30 people and the injury of many more, it was claimed in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Ali Mohammed Azhar, representing the British Muslim Action Front and its convener, Mr Abdul Choudhury, was asking Lord Justice Watkins, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Mr Justice Roch to overturn a decision by the chief metropolitan magistrate, Sir David Hopkin, that Mr Rushdie and his publishers, Viking, could not be summoned for blasphemy.

Mr Azhar argued that Islam was so closely related to Christianity, and the Old and New Testaments so much a part of the Muslim religion that the same protection should be extended to Islam as to Christianity.

He said he read extracts from Mr Rushdie's book only as part of his professional duty and with reluctance. He would not mention some of the abusive four-letter words frequently used in the book

because he considered repeating them a sin.

He said that passages in the book were "an abuse and insult to God the Deity, an abuse and insult to the religion of Christianity, an abuse and insult to the religion of Islam, and an abuse and insult to the religion of Judaism".

Mr Azhar said Muslims had lived peacefully in Britain for 150 years, but had now gone on to the streets in their thousands in protest at Mr Rushdie's "deeply insulting" book and "to demonstrate their feelings to the British public and to the authorities that something must be done".

Mr Azhar said the Jewish faith was in effect protected by the blasphemy laws since any attack on the Old Testament was considered to be an attack on Christianity. "Islam being so closely related, my question is why cannot the same protection be accorded to the Holy Koran?"

Mr Azhar said the magistrate should have taken into account that the Old and New Testaments were both holy books to Muslims.

Blasphemy was an offence between the "creature and the

creator". It was an offence against God and not limited to Jesus Christ and Christianity.

Mr Azhar said any insult to the Koran or any denunciation of it "strikes at the root of Muslim society". Lord Justice Watkins intervened: "You can criticize, can't you?"

Mr Azhar: "There have been many books criticizing the Koran in all languages. Muslims do not pay any attention to it. But when it is vilified in a scurrilous form, then it hurts."

The judge commented: "It would be absurd to suggest that nobody could criticize the

Koran and equally absurd to suggest that nobody could criticize the Old or New Testament."

Counsel said he was not asking the court to create new laws, but simply to accept the existence of a common law of blasphemy which was applicable to the "changing circumstances of society".

He agreed with the judge's description of his case being "a shifting sand". The common law should cope with the problems of the common people, he said, and in Britain they now included Muslims.

The Koran represented a complete code of conduct for Muslims, but if they did not believe in the Old and New Testaments "we cease to be Muslims". It was as closely inter-related as that.

Lord Justice Watkins then asked: "What about Christ rising from the dead?" Counsel: "We also believe that he was raised from the dead."

During the hearing the judges followed Mr Azhar's quotations from the Koran - using translations.

The hearing continues today and is expected to last all week.



Mr Azhar with a copy of the book yesterday

PORTFOLIO A wedding gift from winnings

There were two winners of yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio Platinum competition.

"At my age, I no longer need much money for myself," Mrs Ann McEvoy, aged 84, of Stevenston, Strathclyde, said. "My eldest grandchild, Gabriella, is 23 and getting married in June, so I shall spend some of it on a present for her."

Mrs McEvoy shares the prize with Mr Alf Baker of Bonchurch, near Ventnor, on the Isle of Wight.

Children killed 'to save them'

Julia Phillips, aged 31, of Limsfield, Surrey, strangled her two children because she was a paranoid schizophrenic and believed she was "saving" them from sexual attacks, a Central Criminal Court jury was told yesterday.

She pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of her son and daughter. Her plea of not guilty to murder on the ground of diminished responsibility was accepted and she was remanded for a month for reports.

'Kidneys-for-sale' hearing Surgeon denies testing donor with £5

By John Young

A transplant surgeon yesterday denied telling a reporter from *The Times* that he had waved a £5 note in front of a Turkish donor to establish whether he was being paid for his kidney.

Mr Michael Bewick told the professional conduct committee of the General Medical Council that Mr David Sapsted had correctly reported the generality of a telephone conversation last January. However, the practicalities were rubbish, he said. "I never carry money."

Mr Bewick was giving evidence in the sixth week of a hearing into charges that he and Mr Michael Joyce, a urologist, and Dr Raymond Crockett, a Harley Street specialist, were guilty of serious professional misconduct in connection with the alleged sale of kidneys.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC, for the GMC, asked Mr

Bewick if he had never thought it appropriate to do a little charade with money to see if donors were being paid.

Mr Bewick replied that he never carried money because he was constantly changing clothes and moving in and out of operating theatres.

Had he told Mr Sapsted that

Dr Crockett never appeared to be telling the truth, Mr Henderson asked. Yes, that was the description he had had of Dr Crockett for a long time, Mr Bewick answered.

He said one frequently got the impression he was telling only half the truth in some circumstances. In the end one found he had told all the facts he had known but it took a long time to find that out.

"Did you say 'I think you would be naive if not stupid to think that any living donor never gets anything but a thank you'?" Mr Henderson asked. "Yes."

Mr Bewick said it was impossible to be 100 per cent certain in transplant operations that no money was changing hands.

In the case of four Turkish donors, said to have been paid, it was known there was no close relationship between them and the recipients. How-

ever, they had volunteered to give their kidneys. There was no evidence of bribery.

Mr Henderson asked whether it was not clear that in all four cases the donor and recipient came from different countries and different socio-economic backgrounds. Mr Bewick said it was very difficult in the case of a gravely ill patient to determine his socio-economic group.

Had he closed his eyes to the differences in their nationality? Mr Bewick replied that in the case of Mr Farid Usta and Mr B, one a Muslim and the other a Jew, it was "odd", but he had assumed there must be some relationship.

Supposing he had asked Mr Usta how long he had known Mr B and the reply had been "Who?", he would have stopped the operation?

"Yes," Mr Bewick replied. The hearing continues today.



Mr Bewick: 'Dr Crockett did not seem to be telling truth.'

Mother who smacked son loses 'at risk' appeal

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

A mother whose children were placed on a child abuse register after she smacked her unruly son aged six with a wooden spoon lost a High Court battle yesterday to clear her name.

East Sussex County Council's decision to put the boy and his sister aged five on their child abuse register was upheld by Sir Stephen Brown, President of the High Court Family Division.

A legal specialist said later the decision was a warning to all parents who physically punish their children.

Sir Stephen said social workers were called in after a school teacher noticed bruising on the boy's thigh. He

told them his mother had smacked him for "being too lippy".

The mother told social workers and the police that she had smacked her son three times with the spoon after he spat in her face. She told them: "Every mother corrects her child."

The mother argued at the High Court that the decision to put her son and daughter on the child abuse register after the incident was unreasonable and ought to be quashed.

However, the judge ruled that the council had not acted unreasonably.

"It may seem to some that this was simply an exasperated parent spanking a child," Sir Stephen said. "But what of course came to the attention of the authority were the marks of injury which were observed by the head

mistress of the school. Fortunately, they were not very serious. Nobody is suggesting they were."

"But what they did suggest was that there was the basis of concern as to the treatment this boy might receive, even though he well merited some form of reprimand. The headmistress herself speaks of his bad behaviour."

"I am quite sure to say that the authority here came to a decision that was wholly unreasonable. They were exercising their statutory duty to care for the welfare of children in their area," Sir Stephen said.

A legal specialist said: "It seems to indicate that even parents with a legitimate reason for physically punishing their children could finish up with them being put on child abuse

registers, with all the implications and involvement of welfare services that that entails."

Mr Tom Coningsby, QC, chairman of the Family Law Bar Association, defended the court's ruling last night.

"Putting a child on a register who is considered to be at risk is what it says, it is not removal of a child. The children would then be monitored regularly and if after six months there was no further incident, their names would be taken off."

Mr Coningsby said that to many people the use of any kind of object to hit a child "is just the wrong side of the line". He said: "It can be argued that to do this is a cause for concern, particularly if marks are still visible when the child goes to school."

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Napley leaked

By Paul Williams and Andrew Marshall

Sir David Napley, the former head of the Civil Service, has been accused of leaking information to the press. The accusation was made by a senior source in the Civil Service who said that Sir David had been "in the middle of a leak" and had "leaked" information to the press. The source said that Sir David had been "in the middle of a leak" and had "leaked" information to the press. The source said that Sir David had been "in the middle of a leak" and had "leaked" information to the press.

Actor to see of his colle

The actor, who is a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company, is to see his colleagues in a new production. The production is a play by the playwright, and the actor is to play the role of the character. The production is to be staged at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Cigarette sales

A new survey has shown that cigarette sales have fallen by 10% in the last year. The survey was conducted by the British Cigarette Manufacturers' Association.

Arrest inquiry

The inquiry into the arrest of a man has been delayed. The inquiry was originally scheduled to take place in the next few days.

Miners strike

The miners' strike has been called off. The miners have agreed to return to work after a series of negotiations with the coal industry.

Romania aid

The UK has agreed to provide aid to Romania. The aid is to be used for the reconstruction of the country's infrastructure.

Short closes on

The short has closed on a high note. The short was a success, and the company has made a profit.

THE GUINNESS CASE

Napley 'concocted lies and leaked them to the press'

By Paul Wilkinson and Angela Mackay

Sir David Napley, the former president of the Law Society, was accused of telling "blatant lies" by the chief prosecution witness in the Guinness trial yesterday.

Mr Olivier Roux, Guinness's former finance director, told Southwark Crown Court that Sir David had lied about two conversations and also "concocted" some "pure invention", which was then leaked to *The Sunday Times*.

Sir David became involved in what is now known as the Guinness affair in December 1986 after the Department of Trade and Industry started investigating Guinness's takeover of Distillers.

According to Mr Roux, the Guinness chairman, Ernest Saunders, wanted Sir David's firm, Kingsley Napley, to replace Freshfields as Guinness's solicitors. Mr Roux disagreed and, after learning of the move on December 19, resigned as finance director.

Mr Richard Ferguson, QC for Mr Saunders, put to Mr Roux that the reason he attacked Sir David was because their versions of events conflicted.

Mr Roux said Sir David

THE CHARGES

Ernest Saunders, aged 54, former chairman and chief executive of Guinness, of Putney, south-west London: two charges of conspiring to contravene the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act; two of authorising or permitting Guinness to contravene the Companies Act; eight of false accounting; two of theft; one of destroying company documents.

Gerald Ronson, aged 50, head of the Heron International group, of Hampstead, north-west London: one charge of conspiring to contravene the prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act; one of aiding Mr Saunders to contravene the Companies Act; four of false accounting; one of theft.

ing Mr Saunders to permit Guinness to contravene the Companies Act; two of false accounting; one of theft.

Anthony Parnes, aged 44, a stockbroker, of London: five charges of false accounting; two of theft.

Sir Jack Lyons, aged 74, a financier, of Kensington, west London: one charge of conspiring to contravene the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act; one of conspiracy to contravene the Companies Act; one of aiding Mr Saunders to permit Guinness to contravene the Companies Act; four of false accounting; one of theft.

stockbroker Mr Anthony Parnes, and Sir Jack Lyons the financier. All deny 24 counts of theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act arising out of an alleged illegal share support scheme during the takeover.

Earlier in his evidence, Mr Roux said the merchant bank Ansbacher had also helped Guinness in its share support operation. In return for not selling a large quantity of shares it held, Guinness deposited £7.6 million at the bank on a no-interest basis.

Mr Roux said that at the December 15 meeting, Sir David had asked him whether he had discussed the Ans-

bacher transactions with Mr Saunders. "I said I did, which caused great anguish for Mr Saunders," Mr Roux said.

Mr Ferguson asked Mr Roux whether in the car after the meeting, Mr Saunders had told him "never again to suggest he knew about matters when he didn't know about them". Mr Roux said Mr Saunders did say never to suggest that he knew about the matter, but not the last part of Mr Ferguson's suggestion.

Earlier, Mr Roux had claimed that the Argyl supermarket chain, which fought with Guinness for control of Distillers in 1986, had mounted its own share support operation to win the bid.

"They were purchasing their own shares; they were running their own share support operation," he said.

"Guinness's support operation was only to counter what Argyl was doing, rather than the opposite."

At the start of the day's cross-examination, Mr Roux denied perjuring himself in court last week.

Mr Roux, who on Friday admitted lying to DTI inspectors, was asked whether he lied to the court at the beginning of the cross-examination when he denied telling any lies.

Mr Roux: "I gave my answer in good conscience. There was a stage when I told lies to the DTI inspectors and



Mr Richard Ferguson (left) and Mr Olivier Roux on their way to court yesterday, where Mr Roux accused the solicitor Sir David Napley (right) of concocting blatant lies about the Guinness affair and leaking them to *The Sunday Times*.

the company lawyer."

Mr Ferguson: "You have perjured yourself."

Mr Roux: "You are making a sweeping overstatement."

Mr Roux said he had not corrected lies in the statement he made to the DTI in January 1987 when he met the inspectors for the second time a month later, because he was unprepared and in no fit state to be questioned.

Mr Roux said the process of a DTI interview was "threatening" and the DTI's concern was "to get the witness in the worst possible light".

Mr Roux was then questioned about a conversation that allegedly took place with Mr Saunders in which they

discussed success fees for Sir Jack Lyons and Mr Parnes.

Mr Ferguson said that Mr Roux had said during the meeting that Mr Parnes had proved invaluable for his technical advice during the bid and had "educated" him about the workings of the City.

Mr Roux denied the conversation had taken place, but agreed that he had spoken about how valuable he had found Mr Parnes's advice.

He also denied that he had said fees could be dealt with out of a £100 million "deal budget".

He denied that he had said payments of the success fees were part of his responsibility, as they would have to be

authorized by Mr Saunders. "It would be a 180-degree change from the way things worked within Guinness to do that," Mr Roux said.

He was then questioned about a £5.2 million payment to another of the Guinness directors, Mr Thomas Ward, an American lawyer.

Mr Roux denied that Mr Saunders had told him to authorize a payment to Mr Ward's American legal firm, Ward-Lazarus. The money was eventually paid to Marketing and Acquisition Consultants, a company controlled by Mr Ward.

Mr Roux agreed that at the time he had processed the various success fees, he did

not think there was anything improper or legally wrong with their payment.

Mr Ferguson then questioned him about a letter he signed on behalf of Guinness on April 17, 1986 to the City Takeover Panel. It related to the purchase of 10 million shares in Distillers which had produced a complaint from the rival bidders, Argyl.

The letter, drawn up by Freshfields lawyer, denied there was any Guinness involvement in the purchase, but Mr Roux agreed that he had been misled into signing the letter as he subsequently discovered the purchase had been authorized by Mr Ward.

The case continues today.

Actor to sell part of his collection

The film star Kirk Douglas, who has built up an important collection of contemporary art, is to sell 19 works.

The paintings, by great names such as Picasso, Braque, Chagall, Dubuffet, Mondrian and Balthus will be brought from the Beverly Hills home of the star of *Champion* (1949) and *Spartacus* (1961), and sold by Christie's in New York on May 16.

The works, in fact, reflect the collecting skills of his wife, Anne, who started the collection before they married.

Highlights include "Horse and Child" by the Russian artist Marc Chagall (estimate \$1.5 million, £940,000); "Chasse Croise" by Jean Dubuffet, an oil painting from a series called "Paris Circus" (estimate \$350,000, £220,000); "The Pigeon" by Balthus (£360,000); and "Basket of Fruit" by Picasso (£375,000).

The group is, according to Mr John Steinert of Christie's,



Kirk Douglas: Collection reflects wife's taste.

SALEROOM

by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

"an expression of a serious and intensely emotional taste in collecting."

There was anger in the heritage lobby at the stance taken by Lord Hesketth over "The Three Graces" sculpture by Canova during parliamentary question time in the House of Lords.

The Under-Secretary of State for the Environment said that the Minister for the Arts had explored a number of proposals to save the £7.6 million work, which is under an export ban until March 12. However, because the arts lobbying body Save Britain's Heritage had served a writ for a judicial review on the Secretary of State for the Environment's decision not to take listed building enforcement action on the statue, he said he could not comment.

Miss Marianne Watson-Smith, from the group, said: "I don't see why it should be Save's fault." There was no question of dropping the judicial review.

"We are anxious for the Government to restate their position regarding listed buildings control."

The sculpture is subject to a temporary export ban while heritage bodies try to match a price offered by the Getty Museum in California.

Parliament, page 11

Cigarette sales victory

A shop assistant threatened with dismissal for refusing to sell cigarettes has won her fight to save her job (Libby Jukes writes). Mrs Margaret Scott, aged 37, whose grandmother died of lung cancer, was suspended from Woolworths in Ashford, Kent, for refusing to stand in for colleagues at the cigarette counter. However, after an appeal to the district manager, Mr Paul Clayton, Mrs Scott was reinstated and allowed not to sell cigarettes.

Arrest inquiry

An investigation is to be carried out into the arrest of three Welsh actors and the girl friend of one of them by detectives seeking Welsh firebombers. It is believed they may have been victims of a hoax.

Miners strike

Nearly 800 miners went on strike after some of their colleagues were moved to different jobs at Hatfield Main Colliery, near Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

Romania aid

A convoy carrying 50 tons of medical supplies, food and clothing set off from Glasgow for Constanta, Romania.

Short closes on leader

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Four consecutive wins have catapulted Nigel Short into equal second place behind Gary Kasparov, the world champion, in the international chess tournament at Linares, Spain.

The performance is a remarkable feat against some of the world's top players.

Short, Britain's leading grandmaster, beat Boris Galka, the highest rated American grandmaster, in the seventh round. There are four rounds to be played.

With Short playing white, the moves were:

White	Black	White	Black
1 e4	e5	17 dxc3	Ne5
2 Nf3	Nc6	18 a4	axb4
3 Bc4	Nf6	19 a5	b5
4 d3	d5	20 fxe1	Ra8
5 c3	b7	21 ex5	Rd5
6 Nxc2	g6	22 Bg3	Bb6
7 Nf1	Bg7	23 Qc2	Qf7
8 Bg5	b6	24 Qe4	d5
9 Bx6	Nx5	25 Qx3	c5
10 Bx4	Bx4	26 Bx5	Nx4
11 Qxc4	Nc5	27 Qc2	Nd3
12 Ne4	Qd7	28 g4	Bg5
13 f3	0-0	29 Qc2	Nf5
14 Kf1	Ne5	30 Qd2	Rf5
15 Qd2	Nf4	31 Ng5	h5
16 h3	Nx3	32 Bx6	Bf8

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Ministers attempt to head off student loan revolt in Lords

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

The Government yesterday tried to head off a rebellion in the Lords over student loans by giving details of how the scheme would be run and criticizing an alternative graduate tax system.

The Education (Student Loans) Bill receives its second reading in the Lords this afternoon and the Government has ordered a three-line whip to stop the revolt, led by Lord Beloff, the Conservative peer.

Earlier this year the Government's plans were thrown into disarray when banks refused to administer "top-up loans", forcing the Department of Education and Science to devise a new scheme.

Peers on all sides of the House have objected to the loans Bill because it is a piece of enabling legislation four clauses long which gives the Secretary of State wide powers to introduce a loans programme of his own choosing.

Earl Russell, the Liberal Democrat peer, a don at King's College London, will table an amendment recording disaffection with the scheme which the whips' office fears will win widespread support since it would not block the Bill altogether.

In a written answer published in the Commons and Lords, Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said that all full-time students in higher education, including most on one-year courses, would be

eligible for the loans. The loans would be repayable when graduates earned 85 per cent of the average national wage (currently £11,500 a year) and graduates would, in most cases, have five years to pay off their debts, which would be free of real interest. Collections would be by direct debit.

In a letter to the independent peer Lord Annan, Mr MacGregor said that a graduate tax system — which had been advocated by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals — would be administratively burdensome and fail to ensure that graduates paid for what they had borrowed.

The Government's argument will be led by Lord Cuthbert, the Paymaster General, who is expected to take a conciliatory line and hint that concessions would be possible when the Bill goes to the committee stage.

Nevertheless, the three-line whip could mean that 400 Tory peers, including seldom seen backwoodsmen, will appear for the vote on the second reading — unusual in the House of Lords, where second readings are rarely opposed.

Mr MacGregor said that student loans would be £460 inside London for a full year and £340 in the final year. Outside London the respective figures would be £420 and £310 and students living at home would get £330 or £240

in their last year. Grants, claimed by about 40 per cent of students, will be frozen at this year's levels of about £2,200 but all students would be eligible for a loan. To qualify students would need three years' residency in Britain.

Repayments would be cancelled altogether 25 years after the beginning of the loan or on the graduate's 50th birthday.

● An east London Church of England school was yesterday accused in a school inspectors' report of "seriously failing its pupils" (David Tyler writes). Mr MacGregor has called for a second report on Hackney Free and Parochial Church of England Secondary School within the next four weeks.

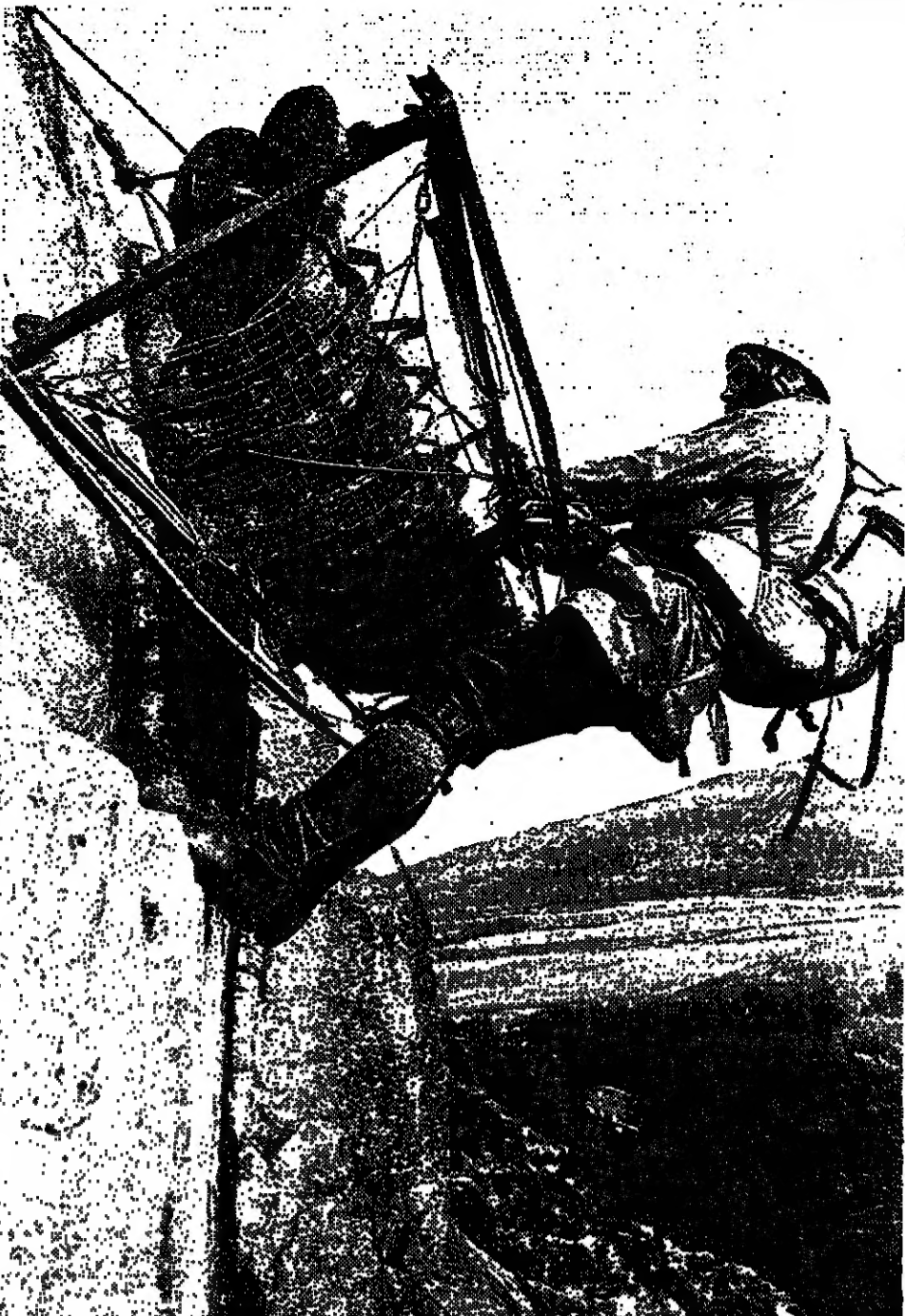
The inspectors say that discipline is poor and many pupils are failing to turn up for badly-taught lessons by temporary teachers in dilapidated buildings.

Public examination results are poor, with pupils failing to remember essential facts and their work going unmarked, the report says.

Mr MacGregor has asked the Inner London Education Authority for a progress report on the steps taken by the school to establish a disciplined working environment; the development of better planned and better co-ordinated teaching; improvements in the use of resources; and work done to repair fire damage to the school buildings.

Slow, steep climb to safety

CRISPIN ROWELL



An RUC sergeant guides an accident "victim" up a rock face to safety high above Ballater, Grampian, during a training exercise by the force's mountain rescue team in the Cairngorms.

Prisoners held 20 hours a day in infested cells

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

Young unconvicted inmates at Rochester Prison in Kent are confined to cockroach-infested cells for over 20 hours a day and denied work and skills training, Judge Tumim, chief inspector of prisons, says in a report today.

The report is being seen by the Home Office and penal reformers as identifying a key problem for the Government, which has pledged itself to improving conditions throughout the prison service.

Judge Tumim says it is wholly unacceptable that remand inmates should be locked up in their cells for so long and suggests that active, purposeful regimes for remand prisoners can help to reduce reoffending.

His report says that at Rochester the 193 remand prisoners, all aged under 21, are generally barred from work and skills training courses, have minimal access to the gymnasium or education classes and are, at best, only allowed to mingle with other inmates under "association time" for four-and-a-half hours a week.

The remand prisoners have to "sleep out", because none of the cells have integral sanitation, and inmates' clothes are changed only once a week.

Standards of cleanliness and hygiene, the judge concludes, are "very poor".

The report says that a few inmates do attend education classes but they then miss out on gymnasium, association and exercise periods.

The "great resentment" inmates felt about the basic

deficiencies in their regime is made worse by some niggling prison rules, the report adds. One bars them from playing football on the exercise ground because it might damage a newly-painted fence.

Judge Tumim accepts that it is difficult to raise standards for remand prisoners because the length of their stay in prison is so uncertain, but he says experience in other jails indicates that such problems can be overcome.

The National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders said the report highlighted the "continuing scandal" of conditions for remand inmates.

"Logically these prisoners should have the best regimes because they are all technically innocent and in some cases actually innocent," the association said.

"But in practice they suffer the worst conditions in the entire system, with the longest time spent in their cells and the smallest opportunities for constructive activities."

The association believes that the condition in which remand prisoners live is one of the main reasons why a disproportionate number commit suicide or mutilate themselves.

Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, has said he wants to exploit the opportunity presented by the recent drop in the prison population to improve standards in jails.

Money is being diverted from the £1 billion prison building programme into jail refurbishment.

Rudolf Hess conspiracy theory

BBC attempt to disprove claim 'was flawed'

By Edward Gorman

The leading exponent of the conspiracy theory about Rudolf Hess has accused the BBC of a "flawed" and partial attempt to destroy his theory and has sent a detailed complaint to Mr Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the board of governors.

Mr Hugh Thomas, a consultant surgeon and author of *Hess: A Tale of Two Murders*, complained about a television documentary which attempted to put an end to his theory that the man in Spandau was a double.

Hess: an edge of conspiracy, produced by the BBC's Timewatch Unit and broadcast in mid-January, became shrouded in controversy after the appearance of forged letters earlier this month implying that Dr Chris-

topher Andrew, its presenter, was involved in an organized manipulation of German archives about Hess to protect the "official" version.

Dr Andrew, fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, has denied being involved.

In the programme Dr Andrew set out to show that, like many conspiracy theories, the one about Hess — that he died in 1941 and never went to Spandau — was more exciting than common sense, but ultimately unlikely. Conspiracy theories tended to survive because of the "difficulty, not to mention the tedium, of trying to prove an opposite — a negative".

Dr Andrew relied on interviews with a forensic artist, a voice analyst, the assistant manager of an airfield in

Germany from where Hess left in 1941, evidence of members of Hess's family, the opinion of a forensic pathologist, and apparently new medical records found in Munich which appear to show conclusively that the man was Hess.

Mr Thomas yesterday said the key failing was that the BBC failed to get a full translation of the new medical documents; had it done so, it would have found them to demonstrate the opposite to that claimed. He said he was given only 10 minutes to consider the new records before commenting, and his remarks were in any case left out.

Mr Thomas's supporters said the BBC failed to mention that the airfield manager had in the past given

contradictory versions; that, excluding British government experts, all 57 surgeons who examined the prisoner over the years could find no evidence of gunshot wounds that would prove him to be Hess; that an interview with one of them explaining this was omitted, as were photographs taken at the post mortem in 1987 which showed no sign of gunshot wounds.

Mr Roy Davies, the programme's producer, said every point made by Mr Thomas had been dealt with and dismissed by the BBC.

Dr Andrew yesterday refused to comment on the letters. He has said they were crude forgeries based on private correspondence; he has declined to reveal to whom he sent the letters on which they were based.

MPs demand action to stop immigration marriage fraud

By Jamie Dettmer

MPs urged the Government yesterday to plug a legal loophole that is allowing thousands of illegal immigrants to claim the identities of British citizens or secure residence rights in Britain on the basis of sham marriages.

This week in the Commons, MPs will call on ministers to tighten the rules governing applications for copies of British birth certificates.

The Immigration Service has found that numbers of people have been applying for dozens of copies of birth certificates at the Central Register of Births and Deaths at St

Catherine's House in London. The copies are used to give new identities to illegal immigrants or for sham marriages.

During their year-long inquiry, codenamed Operation Goldring, they established that in 1988 alone there were probably 5,000 bogus marriages in Britain involving West Africans. Others involve Indian nationals.

Last night, Sir Dudley Smith, Conservative MP for Warwick and Leamington, who was vice-chairman of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Race Relations and

Immigration in the 1970s, said the Operation Goldring report would "cause great alarm".

"The Government must step in and stop the identities of perfectly innocent British citizens being used for fraudulent immigration purposes."

A Government White Paper, published two weeks ago, has, however, recommended retaining free access to birth certificates.

The Goldring report argues for a tightening of the rules and for more resources to be given to the Immigration Service to combat marriage rackets.

Motor industry shake-up

Rover accepts 37-hour week

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

Rover is to cut the working week for 30,000 manual workers in a move that will pave the way for radical increases in production of the company's most successful car.

Union leaders claimed the reduction from 39 hours a week to 37 as an important victory in the lengthy national campaign for a shorter working week for more than a million workers in the engineering industry.

Rover is the first company in the British motor industry to cut the working week, and may well set the pace for hundreds of component factories and other car producers, who still have working weeks of 39 hours.

At Ford, still suffering acrimonious disputes over the two-year company pay deal, unions were unable to secure a cut in working time because executives claimed it would add too greatly to costs.

However, Rover plans to use the two-hour reduction as a key bargaining tool for widespread changes in work practices that will help to double the production of its new 200 Series hatchback and saloon cars, manufactured at Longbridge, Birmingham. The

plan could also mean another 1,000 jobs at Longbridge.

Unions have so far resisted a plan for 24-hour production at the important K Series engine plant, which makes 1.4 litre engines for the 200 Series cars, and later, the new Metro, which is due to be launched this spring.

The Rover proposals would mean workers completing longer shifts of 11 hours, but doing only 13 a month instead of the present 20.

In addition, they would be guaranteed seven consecutive

days off every month and paid a £20-a-week shift premium.

Seen as the most far-reaching working proposals in the UK motor industry, the plan has foundered so far on union demands for total working time to be reduced. That may now be overcome as Rover accedes to the demand to cut two hours from the working week.

Mr Norman Haslam, the company's personnel opera-

tions director, said yesterday that cutting working time would not raise costs but would pave the way for better productivity and raise capacity.

That is vital as Rover faces waiting lists of up to seven months in this country and a year abroad on some models of the 200 Series.

Output is at present about 2,500 to 3,000 cars a week, but production round the clock in the K Series plant plus three shifts on assembly lines could raise that number to 5,000 a week by July.

With the car successfully launched in continental markets, Rover could fall victim to its own success unless it can greatly increase its output.

Mr Kevin Morley, the company's commercial director, said yesterday: "Acceptance of the Rover 200 revised range has been enormous and we are facing lists of as much as seven months for some 216 models and two months for 214 cars. In Belgium, we took a year's orders on the day of launch."

"That means we must try to raise production as quickly as we can while maintaining the quality of the car."

Consultant loses fight for his job

By Craig Seton

A hospital consultant has lost his claim for unfair dismissal eight years after being suspended on full pay.

Dr Royce Darnell, aged 60, was the £30,000-a-year senior consultant microbiologist at Derby Royal Infirmary until being suspended in 1982 over alleged mismanagement and failures of budget control and appointment procedures.

His case was considered twice by the High Court and he received full pay until 1988, when his dismissal by the Trust Regional Health Authority was confirmed by the Secretary of State for Health.

Dr Darnell last month took his case to an industrial tribunal in Nottingham, claiming that he had been the victim of a political campaign. However, in a judgement announced yesterday, the tribunal said that it was satisfied that his dismissal was fair.

Dr Darnell is now considering appealing to the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

Cases of hospital doctors involved in long disciplinary procedures have prompted the Department of Health to draw up strict time limits.

Top practising lawyers hired as dons

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Magdalene College, Cambridge, is beating the recruitment crisis in university and polytechnic law schools by hiring the services of leading lawyers or judges from the practising profession.

The college's master Mr David Calcutt, QC, is chairing two Government inquiries — on privacy and the Cofin Wallace affair. The college also has several lecturers with a foot in private practice.

In addition, it has just appointed Sir Derek Oulton, QC, until recently permanent secretary of the Lord Chancellor's Department, to its full-time law staff to teach administrative law and contract.

Among the staff he will join are Judge Kolbert, who was a part-time don, part-time practising barrister. Although now on the circuit bench, he remains a fellow and returns once a week to teach criminal practice and criminal evidence.

The Director of Studies, Mr Chris-

topher Greenwood, himself a part-time practising barrister in international and EC law, said: "The gap between academic salaries and income in practice is now enormous."

"First-year articulated clerks earn more than lecturers who have been teaching for several years."

However, the idea was not just to help with recruitment and retention of staff, but to improve the quality of the teaching, Mr Greenwood said.

"I think that the teaching is the better for having a foothold in practice. It gives a more practical outlook: we can help and explain why a case went the way it did, and how the substantive law fits in to it."

Another college lecturer is the leading QC Mr Alan Rawley, who comes up to college to teach criminal law on Friday nights and Saturday mornings after a week spent in court on big criminal trials.

The college recently appointed a young pupil barrister, Mr Simon Picken, to teach company law.

Mr Greenwood said: "With some of

the lecturers, such as myself, our main source of income is from lecturing with additional support from the Bar."

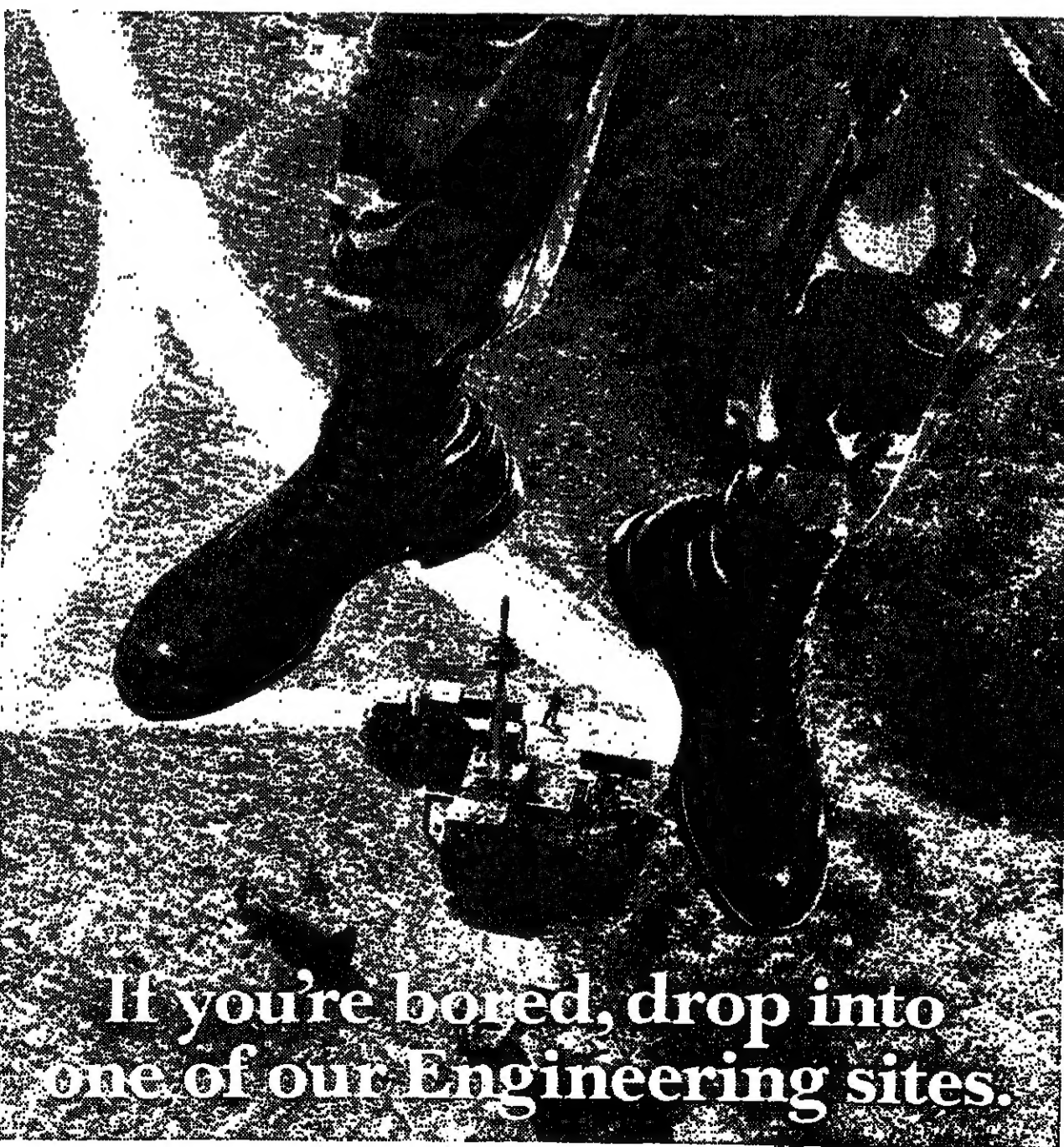
"With others, such as Mr Rawley, it is obviously the other way round."

● Graduates are being sought for 14 research vacancies at the Law Commission, the law reform body. The vacancies, which are filled for up to one year, involve working with the five Law Commissioners on key law reform projects across common law, criminal law, family and property law.

● A cross-section of employers of law firms to the European Commission — will be hosts at about 70 stands at the first national recruitment Law Fair, on March 15 and 16.

More than 3,000 graduates are expected to attend the fair at the Business Design Centre, north London.

It is being organised by the University of London Careers Advisory Service, with *The Times*. Details from: 01 387 8221.



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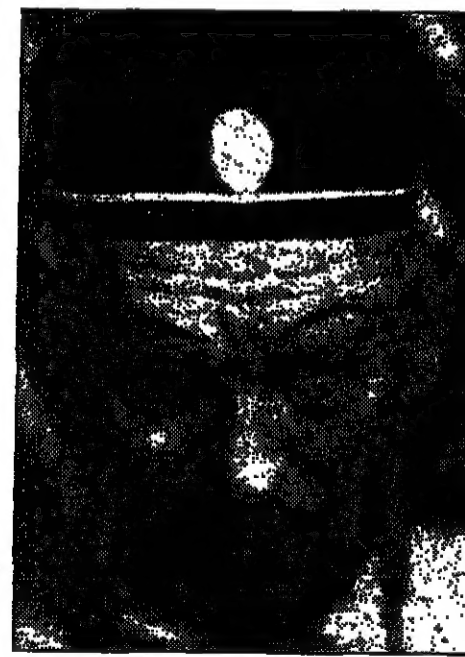
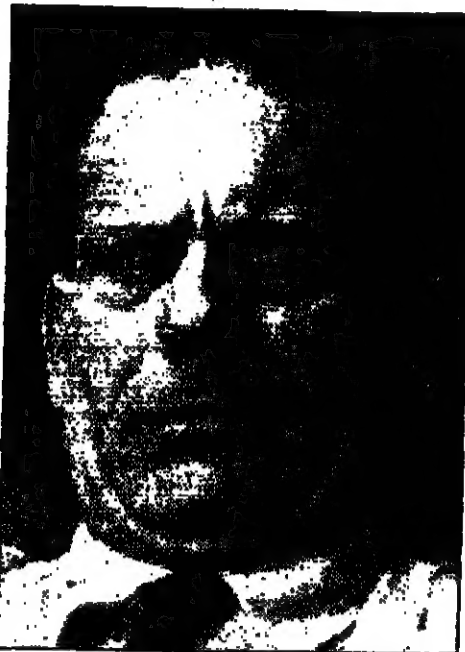
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everything from a crooked ventriloquist masquerading as a parrot-selling old lady (*The Unholy Three*) to an armless knife-throwing circus star (*The Unknown*). It seemed there was no character this silent genius couldn't create; no contortion he wasn't capable of; no face he couldn't bring to life. A bit like Epson's latest printers really. Take the GQ-5000 laser printer, for example. Like old Lon, it can do things with characters and faces that you didn't think could be done with characters and faces. Unlike old

Lon, it doesn't have to spend hours on end in front of a mirror, plastered in make-up with funny teeth stuffed up its cake-hole. It does the business almost instantly. The GQ-5000, you see, has 'scaleable fonts'. Sounds painful doesn't it? It's not. It's wonderful. It means you can select any typeface from 80 built-in fonts; choose any size between 3pt and 240pt; print landscape or portrait in bold, medium or italics; underline, extend, flip or condense letters — by simply pressing a button or two. If, however, a cast of thousands is not what you're looking for, simply a quietly brilliant

performance, then the SQ-850 ink-jet is what you're after. The SQ-850 is so quiet you'll hardly notice it's there, let alone that it's whizzing along faster than any comparable ink-jet (600 cps in draft mode and 198 cps in LQ). It also produces high-resolution graphics (at 360 dpi) and does all its own paper-handling stunts, *daunting*. Lon Chaney had to sweat his way through almost 150 films to earn the title *The Man of a Thousand Faces*. All you have to do is write or ring your way through to us here at Epson. So step on it. But don't step on that spider... it might be an Epson.

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CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Lithuanian poll aftermath

Sajudis urges rapid change of regime to sidestep Gorbachov

The Sajudis nationalist movement, fresh from its landslide victory over the Communists in the Lithuanian election, wants a government formed swiftly in the Baltic republic before President Gorbachov gains executive powers to veto moves to independence, perhaps by calling a national state of emergency.

Dr Vytautas Landsbergis, the Sajudis leader, said that a draft law on secession and the strengthening of Mr Gorbachov's position, details of which emerged yesterday, represented "a very threatening situation for Lithuania".

Mr Vytautas Sakalauskas, the Communist prime minister of the republic, offered his resignation before last weekend's elections, but was asked to remain as caretaker.

Sajudis wants his rapid removal, as he is seen as incapable of standing up to the Kremlin. The movement's deputies in Moscow are to boycott the parliamentary debate and the vote on the new secession law, arguing that since Lithuania was illegally annexed to the Soviet Union, it cannot logically "secede".

Lithuanians are afraid that Mr Gorbachov might use his new presidential powers to declare a state of emergency throughout the Soviet Union.

The initial schedule for the second round of the Lithuanian elections would mean that the changes in Moscow would probably take place

From Anatol Llievas, Vilnius before the new supreme soviet in Vilnius, the republic's capital, could meet to confirm a new government.

So Sajudis is pressing the authorities to bring the date of the 45 "run-off" elections for so far undecided seats forward from March 10 to next Sunday. With only six elections after that, the supreme soviet would then have a quorum.

A press conference held by the Lithuanian election commission yesterday suggested that this change may well take place. The results published by the commission differed slightly from those put forward by Sajudis on Sunday.

It now appears that the independent Lithuanian Communist Party has 31 seats, 16 of them Sajudis-backed, instead of the 22 given by Sajudis, and the Soviet Communist Party has only four instead of the seven previously suggested.

Mr Algis Cekuolis, a Sajudis committee member, said that "the lines between the parties are still very misty" and thought this would characterize the new government.

Sajudis, apart from opposing new measures introduced in Moscow, will expect the new government to take rapid steps to reduce Soviet powers in Lithuania.

According to Mr Cekuolis, the new administration may go further than just defending Lithuanian conscripts who refuse to serve in the Soviet Army, and actively forbid citizens to obey the draft.

There have been discussions on civil disobedience with the Union of Mothers of Soldiers, which has taken a leading part in protests against the treatment of conscripts.

If the Soviet authorities attempt to use the police to conscript Lithuanians, there may be attempts to block the trains taking them to Russia.

"But I think the police here would obey the government of the republic, and there aren't anything like enough KGB men to perform this task," Mr Cekuolis said. The campaign of civil disobedience may also be used as a general weapon if Moscow does not bow to Lithuanian demands.

Establishing full authority within the republic over the Ministry of the Interior - at present still largely controlled from Moscow - and the KGB are likely to be other priorities of a new government. Mr Cekuolis said the KGB should be converted quickly from an internal security organization to a counter-intelligence force.

Leaders meet as troops pull out



President Gorbachov sharing a joke with President Havel prior to Kremlin talks which were to include in the Soviet pullout.

The Soviet tank men lead the way home

From Peter Green, Freunstat, Czechoslovakia

"We have lived for the day they leave," cried Mrs Libuse Hubickova, aged 70, standing outside the gates of the Soviet Union's 31st Tank Division Second Regiment, as they began to leave the north Moravian town.

The 31st Tanks, called the Czesstochowa division after the Polish town it captured from the Nazis in the Second World War, was due to leave Czechoslovakia under President Gorbachov's 1988 proposal to withdraw unilaterally 50,000 Soviet troops from Europe.

But their departure yesterday has taken on a strong symbolic significance, for as the first 44 T72 tanks and BMP1 and BMP2 armoured personnel carriers were loaded on railway freight cars, 2,000 miles away President Havel of Czechoslovakia met President Gorbachov in Moscow, where the two are expected to sign a final agreement on the withdrawal of the Soviet Union's 75,000 to 80,000 troops in Czechoslovakia.

At 2.42 pm, the train's whistle blew loudly and the workers raised their arms high, fingers in a V for victory sign as the train passed out of sight around a bend. It is expected to cross into the Soviet Union at about noon today at the Czechoslovak town of Cier nad Tisou. Two more trains should leave Freunstat today.

The Russians have been in Czechoslovakia since 1968, when nearly 150,000 men led a Warsaw Pact invasion to suppress the Prague Spring reforms of Mr Alexander Dubcek. Now that communism has left Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Army has begun to follow suit, Czechoslovaks are speaking their minds about the 21 years of occupation.

"When they arrived in '68 the Soviet soldiers were told it was only for five years. For us, it was like living in a prison," said Mrs Hubickova.

Another old lady, standing in front of her house outside the gates of the Soviet base, said the Russians acted like imperialist invaders.

"They taught their children that everything here was theirs. And now that they are leaving, they have pulled out



A Soviet soldier directing tanks onto a home-bound train in Koprivnice, Czechoslovakia.

of our shops as well," she said. As the troops paraded around their base in the morning before leaving, a military band played and Soviet children presented them with red tulips.

Mr Bohumil Soulek, the Freunstat railway station manager, said he was glad to see them go, but he said he harboured no ill feelings towards them. "It was their leaders who were evil, it is not the fault of these boys," he said.

But Mr Soulek said that in the wake of the withdrawal he and other rail workers were planning to give a day's salary each to the local cancer clinic, a move inspired by the waste the Russians have dumped in Freunstat's fields and streams.

Many of the Soviet soldiers are quite young, and some have become attached to Czechoslovakia in their short stay here.

Kaizar Baimbetov, a 22-year-old lieutenant from Kazakhstan, said he had made many friends in Czechoslovakia. "Many of them will be sad to see me go, especially the girls," he said smiling. "But they will send letters and keep contact, I am sure."

A few Soviet soldiers talked freely about their stay in Czechoslovakia. "We must leave Czechoslovakia - I would not like foreign troops in my country," said a young officer from the Ukraine. Asked how he felt about Russian troops stationed in the Ukraine, the officer, eyes

Russian protest drive widens

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

Life in Moscow returned to normal yesterday after Sunday's mass demonstration and the tight security that accompanied it. But as Red Square was reopened and police returned to single patrols, evidence started to reach the capital from outlying areas and cities, usually closed to foreigners, of how widespread the rallies in favour of reform had been.

Mr Boris Yeltsin, the reform radical, addressed a rally of about 3,000 in his home city of Sverdlovsk in the Urals, where he is standing as a candidate for the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, or parliament, next week. Other speakers demanded the resignation of national and local party leaders.

Similar demands were made by tens of thousands of people in the southern city of Saratov, where there were also protests against the number of candidates standing unopposed in the Russian Federation elections; in the city of Ufa, where the First Secretary resigned three weeks ago in response to popular protests; and in Barnaul in the south Siberian region of the Altai, where the First Secretary left office 10 days ago at the first sign of popular opposition.

Several thousand people gathered in the Siberian city of Omsk, where independent

Reformist win

Moscow - Soviet Communist reformers are believed to have won their battle to have delegates to this summer's party congress elected directly and by secret ballot (Mary Dejevsky writes). The selection of delegates is crucial in determining the political complexion of the congress. Traditionally, they have been elected indirectly, with winners from one round becoming the voters in the next round, until the final choice is made. Reformists believe this system maintains the status quo and have campaigned for it to be replaced.

speakers shared the platform with members of the local Communist Party authorities.

Also in Siberia, several hundred people were reported to have turned out in Yakutsk despite the extreme cold. According to Interfax, the semi-official news agency, the meeting was complicated by the failure of the city council to provide a loudspeaker system - even though it had sanctioned the rally.

In the cities of Gorky to the east of Moscow, Yaroslavl to the north, and Voronezh to the south, rallies of several thousand people demanded the retirement of local party and government leaders. In Gorky, according to Interfax, the council brought in workers by bus to shout "no to extremism" and "down with attacks on the party".

Voronezh demonstrators also protested against economic mismanagement and the number of local election candidates standing unopposed. And the Yaroslavl protesters included in their demands a call for the bodies of former party leaders to be removed from the Kremlin wall and the Novodevichy monastery cemetery and reburied elsewhere.

In the Ukrainian city of Donetsk, which has been the centre of miners' strikes in recent months, a mass meeting called for the resignation of local party leaders and the transfer of power to local government.

West Germans daunted by cost of reunification

From Ian Murray, Bonn

West Germany is counting the cost of reunification and there are growing signs that it does not like what it sees.

At the same time, resentment is increasing against the refugees who still pour in from the East even though free elections there are only three weeks away.

The wealthy, Christian Democratic state of Baden-Wuerttemberg has now warned that it will cost the existing 11 West German *Länder* (states) between DM10 billion and DM20 billion (£3.5-£3.8 billion) a year to subsidize the five East German *Länder*.

Even the Social Democratic-controlled areas, such as Bremen and Saarland, will have to pay, according to the Baden-Wuerttemberg Finance Ministry, which has been conducting a survey of the likely costs.

The risk that other European Community states will have to share the financial burden of renovating East Germany is one of the arguments put forward by Mrs Thatcher for rejecting automatic membership in the event of reunification.

But according to Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, she is wrong in asserting that a treaty change would be necessary before the eastern part of Germany could become part of the EC even after reunification.

In a Sunday Times interview last weekend, she also said that automatic membership would mean allowing in a country which, since the 1930s, had been either com-

munist or Nazi. Herr Genscher said that this idea was a betrayal of the dignity of the German people, who had found the way to democracy through a peaceful, freedom-seeking revolution.

M. Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, has pointed out that the Treaty of Rome was originally drawn up, on West German insistence, with eventual German unity in mind - including a clause to make membership of the entire country possible. While the argument continues over how much unification will cost and who will pay for it, East Germans are continuing to opt, in increasing numbers, to live in the West.

A weekend poll showed that 100,000 East Germans have arrived in West Germany this year, with the daily average rising. Bonn's welcome for them is wearing thin.

The decision of so many to vote with their feet, instead of waiting to take part in the elections, underlines how little faith people have in a speedy improvement in living standards. Their arrival is destroying the initial goodwill and willingness to help which fol-

lowed the opening of the Berlin Wall last November.

According to a poll in *Der Spiegel* published yesterday, only 22 per cent believe that all East Germans should be allowed in to claim citizenship automatically, compared with 60 per cent last autumn. A further 71 per cent think that benefits for the new arrivals are "too high" - a 15 per cent increase over the past month.

The change in attitude stems in part from fears that the refugees will add to unemployment and homelessness. Also, the new arrivals are economic, not political, refugees.

Those who came last autumn took risks to leave a country under an oppressive regime where they had no hope of freedom: those who arrive now are deserting their country just as it achieves democracy, choosing to work for personal wealth rather than to help rebuild a prosperous united Germany.

The average East German worker, according to the Government's statistical office, has a monthly income of only 850 Ostmarks. It is impossible to convert the currency into anything meaningful. The current official rate is one Deutschmark (30p) for three Ostmarks. But the black market rate is anything up to one Deutschmark for 10.

East Germans are increasingly certain that currency union will devalue their formidable savings through a conversion rate that makes them valueless or with roaring inflation that quickly consumes all their savings.

Eastern bloc's free press wakes to cold dawn of financial reality

As pioneers of Eastern Europe's fledgling free press confer with Western newspaper representatives at an unprecedented Unesco meeting opening in Paris today, Roger Boyes in Warsaw reviews changes afoot in the Eastern media.

"More people catch flu in spring than in the deepest winter," said the editor of one of Poland's main dailies, trying on a metaphor for size. He was not, of course, parading medical statistics; simply, he wanted to explain that the much warmer political climate in Eastern Europe is claiming serious casualties, especially in the media.

Two rival Polish journalists' unions - one aligned to the communists, the other illegal until recently - are uniting to look after the several hundred reporters who have been thrown out of work this year.

Newspapers are folding almost daily, others are cutting back or have launched themselves on last desperate attempts to boost circulation.

The break-up of the communist press monopolies has two edges. The attractive side is that unreadable party organs are being forced to compete for readers since they cannot rely on subsidies.

Neues Deutschland, the East German party daily, has changed its typeface, is planning regional supplements, is playing up television coverage and introducing a crossword.

The Polish party paper, now called

to cut printing costs, save on foreign correspondents and streamline management. Recently, they have been talking to a West German news group, the obvious advantage of a joint venture being fresh capital for equipment and a foothold in the world paper market.

West German companies are also moving into East Germany. As almost everybody in East Germany can receive West German television, there is a ready-made advertising market. Some 9.7 million newspapers are sold a day in East Germany.

Stern is planning an East German edition. West Berlin local papers are producing advertising supplements that will also cover East Berlin. A young West German entrepreneur is about to produce a Leipzig paper, *Wir in Leipzig*, with a print run of 60,000.

Printing in the West and distributing in the East is a real possibility for West German news enterprises. *Bild Zeitung*, the mass circulation West German daily, has been studying the possibility of a regional edition for East Germany.

Apart from East Germany, Western news groups are understandably cautious about buying into the post-communist press market. Even Poland, with the most advanced free-market Government, is a little ambiguous about the repatriation of profits.

Modernizing the East European newspaper industry will need large invest-

ments. A reconnaissance trip by executives of News International, which owns *The Times*, to the printing works of *Zycie Warszawy* revealed tired, prematurely aged machines that would have to be replaced.

There are a number of East-West talks going on. Mr Marcin Krol, the editor of the intellectual monthly *Ros Publica* - a kind of *Encounter* - wants to produce a serious daily that will give him faster returns. His first contacts have been with *The Independent* and *El Pais* of Madrid.

Andrzej Wroblewski, the new editor of *Gazeta Bankowa* - which he would like

weekly, are going all-out for advertising revenue. Even *Trybuna* is carrying front-page advertisements - from private householders - instead of the golden words of President Gorbachov.

Magazines in Poland and Hungary are carrying circulation-boosting photographs of naked women, and semi-pornographic magazines are flourishing.

Hungary is regarded as interesting terrain for Western news groups. Indeed there seems to be a circulation battle looming between Mr Robert Maxwell - who has bought a stake in *Magyar Hirlap* (formerly the official government newspaper) - and Mr Rupert Murdoch, who has bought a 50 per cent share in the glossy weekly *Reform* and its daily offshoot, *Mai Nap*.

Newspapers in Eastern Europe have commercial appeal to news groups with satellite television interests, since demand for dishes is strong and is widely predicted to grow even faster.

There seems to be a natural progression in the East European media world. First, there was a weakening and then a paralysis of the communist propaganda machine.

Articles exposing the corruption of the party elites pepper the newspapers, making them exotic and attractive products for the first time in four decades. That is the current state of the press in East Germany and Romania.

Later, when the power of the party is

finally broken (and not just shared) the communists lose their newspaper industry - and papers have to fend for themselves.

That is the position in Poland and, to some degree, Hungary. The question is how the West should help at this second stage of a developing free press. Senior Western and East European newspaper executives are discussing the matter in detail this week at a Unesco-sponsored conference in Paris. Different proposals are emerging from Eastern Europe.

Witold Pawlowski, the Foreign Editor of *Polytyka*, says that "Western newspapers which are moving to newer technology can give us their old machines." A French newspaper concern has recently donated its old printing technology to *Gazeta Wyborcza*, the daily of Solidarity.

Many young journalists in Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia went straight from university into the underground press. Now, they are active, indeed dominant, in the mainstream press but often have little idea of how a competitive press market works.

The British Knowhow Fund, set up by Mrs Thatcher, is funding courses for more than 60 young Polish journalists.

Finally, the post-communist states can be helped to set-up efficient market research organizations. Such research can help the newly free press to define its markets better.

Newspapers in Eastern Europe are folding daily, or launching desperate attempts to boost circulations

Ceausescu pollu nightr linger

From Richard B. Sewall, Bucharest

The northern Transylvanian highway built by Ceausescu before you reach the Fields. There children, all have been soot have been on them every day for miles is polluted beyond the city of West Europe.

In Nicolae Ceausescu's Romania, the decision to see the culture film-*Transylvanian villages* to be highly contaminated.

Twenty years ago, the city's ill-fated ground into the ground.

Warsaw (Reuters) - The Polish Foreign Minister, Jacek Kuron, said yesterday that diplomatic relations with the Holy See would be restored to the Holy See.

decided to occupy the city's highest point at the top of the hill.

The local mass movement, the Solidarity, is a powerful force in the country.

Some of the powers in the country are the Polish government, the Polish people, the Polish church, the Polish army, the Polish police, the Polish courts, the Polish media, the Polish economy, the Polish culture, the Polish society, the Polish nation, the Polish state, the Polish world, the Polish universe, the Polish everything.

The country is a beautiful place, with many beautiful cities, many beautiful people, many beautiful things, many beautiful moments, many beautiful memories, many beautiful dreams, many beautiful hopes, many beautiful futures, many beautiful possibilities, many beautiful opportunities, many beautiful challenges, many beautiful adventures, many beautiful experiences, many beautiful journeys, many beautiful discoveries, many beautiful wonders, many beautiful mysteries, many beautiful secrets, many beautiful truths, many beautiful lies, many beautiful fictions, many beautiful fantasies, many beautiful nightmares, many beautiful horrors, many beautiful tragedies, many beautiful comedies, many beautiful dramas, many beautiful operas, many beautiful ballets, many beautiful plays, many beautiful movies, many beautiful books, many beautiful paintings, many beautiful sculptures, many beautiful gardens, many beautiful parks, many beautiful forests, many beautiful mountains, many beautiful rivers, many beautiful lakes, many beautiful seas, many beautiful oceans, many beautiful planets, many beautiful stars, many beautiful galaxies, many beautiful universes, many beautiful everything.

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CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Ceausescu's pollution nightmare lingers on

From Richard Bennett, Copca Mica, Romania

The northern Transylvanian highway turns black five miles before you reach Copca Mica. Fields, trees, houses, even children, all look as if tons of soot have been emptied on them every day for the past 20 years. An area of 10 square miles is pitch-black, blighted beyond the worst nightmares of West European Greens.

In Nicolae Ceausescu's Romania, it needed only one decision to seal the fate of an entire 7th-century settlement. Some would argue that those villages he bulldozed got off lightly compared with Copca Mica.

Twenty years ago, as Romania's ill-advised industrialization process relentlessly ground into action, it was

Warsaw (Reuters) — Mr Moshe Arens, the Israeli Foreign Minister, arrived in Poland yesterday to renew diplomatic ties severed in 1967 and immediately went to visit shrines to Jewish victims of the Holocaust. Poland was among the Soviet bloc states that severed ties with Israel during the Six Day War.

decided to construct the country's biggest coal-refining plant at Copca Mica.

The locals — mainly Germans from the 250,000-strong Saxon community — were powerless to resist. Their two-storey houses, painstakingly painted bright violet and green, turned a shade of black that defied even the Teutonic instinct for sparseness.

The authorities rejected filters as a luxury. "No money for filters here," the Romanian managers told the inhabitants five years ago. But every year those living around Copca Mica protested, sometimes even competing petitions and risking imprisonment.

Even the large state fruit farm a few miles away was powerless to demand filters. It

discovered last year that 90 per cent of its harvest contained dangerous quantities of lead.

But a protest brought no response from the factory managers. The fruit is still sold today but no one, even in starving Romania, touches apples from this part of Transylvania.

Today, two months after the revolution, Copca Mica is still the most polluted town in Eastern Europe. The authorities in Bucharest are so busy arguing and bribing their supporters to demonstrate that they lack time to pay any attention to the town.

"If the Army had taken over instead of the National Salvation Front, things would be different. More would be done," a villager said, adding: "Now people are interested only in power; they have no time for solving the disasters left to us by Ceausescu."

Other villagers in the area are angrier. One said: "In Bucharest they only talk and argue. You will see, they will not fit any filters here for another 10 years."

In the local hospital, a doctor refused to give her name because "the Securitate are still here". She said that in the past two years the rate of infant mortality in the region has risen by 200 per cent; more than 50 babies a year have died.

GENEVA: Respect of human rights has considerably improved in Romania since December's revolution, but some people still live in fear of their lives, according to a United Nations report issued here yesterday (AFP reports).

Mr Joseph Voyame, author of the report to the UN Commission on Human Rights, said that despite the progress since the fall of the Ceausescu regime, there is an atmosphere of suspicion and fear which will be hard to eradicate.

Secret Securitate listening posts destroyed



Major-General Nicolae Cerbu, left, of the Romanian Army, showing journalists two of the electronic devices

formerly used by Securitate switchboards to tap telephone conversations. The Army has begun to dismantle the

telephone-tapping centres and says this demonstrates that widespread eavesdropping will not happen again

(AP reports). "Observe, please, that all the power boxes have been removed," General Cerbu said.

Serbs are accused of killing exile

From Michael Haynes, Brussels

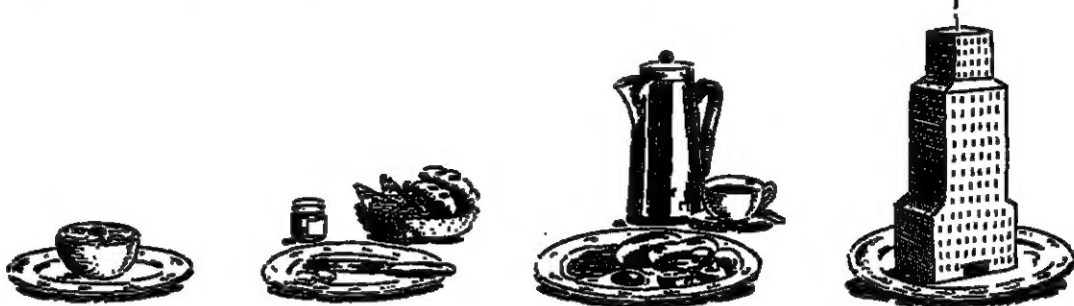
Belgian anti-terrorist police were yesterday treating as a political assassination the murder on Sunday evening of a leading Albanian exile from the troubled Yugoslav province of Kosovo.

Enver Hadri was shot twice in the head with a silenced pistol as he was waiting in his car at traffic lights near his home in a Brussels suburb. The shots came from another car, with Belgian number plates, which sped away. Mr Hadri died in hospital.

He was a leading activist in the movement for Albanian independence in Kosovo, where at least 25 people have died in a month of rioting against Serbian control.

He had lived in Brussels with his family for the past 14 years on a street named, ironically, Albania. About 15,000 Albanians from Yugoslavia live in Belgium, the largest community in Europe. Their leaders yesterday accused the Serbian secret service of masterminding the assassination. Mr Hadri had often received threats by telephone and anonymous letter.

The businessman who eats well stays hungrier.



"Right Fortescue," said the Chairman "We're going for the American market. The Board wants it. The shareholders want it. I want it. We're hungry for a big one here, Fortescue."

"You're hungry" thought Fortescue, "I'm starving. Three hours on the motorway, coming to head office. No food, contraflows as far as the eye can see. The only thing I've had in my stomach is my heart."

"I want you to head it up Fortescue" continued the Chairman. "Study the market, pick the people. Really get your teeth into it."

"Teeth." The word gnawed into the empty pit of Fortescue's stomach.

"If I'd come on InterCity, I could have got my teeth into a full English breakfast" he mused. "Country-side racing past the window, fried egg, succulent sausages, crispy bacon. All the trimmings."

"The American market is huge Fortescue, it's ripe. And you are going to devour it for us."

Fortescue's mind made a futile attempt to grapple with the sales potential in Minnesota. But his stomach had all-devouring thoughts of its own.

A steward bearing slices of hot toast and a cup of steaming black coffee swam briefly into vision.

"Chew it over Fortescue."

The Chairman's culinary metaphors seemed to Fortescue to have a sadistic streak.

His distracted expression caught the Chairman's steely eye.

"We could always give it to Tomkins" the Chairman intoned silkily. "Maybe you've got too much on your plate, Fortescue."

"If only I had" thought Fortescue. "If only I had."

INTERCITY

WORLD ROUNDUP

Swapo martyr 'was on Pretoria payroll'

Johannesburg — Mr Anton Lubowski, a senior Swapo figure and leading Namibian civil rights lawyer who was assassinated last year in Windhoek, was a paid agent for South African military intelligence, General Magnus Malan, the South African Defence Minister, said yesterday (Nicholas Beeson writes).

In a startling revelation during a parliamentary debate over allegations that the South African military ran a hit squad responsible for Mr Lubowski's murder, General Malan said: "I reveal today here that Mr Lubowski was a paid agent of military intelligence. I am assured that he did good work for the SADF (South African Defence Force). The head of staff, information, General Witkop Badenhorst, would thus in no way have approved action against Lubowski." The announcement is bound to shock Mr Sam Nujoma, Swapo's leader, who was close to Mr Lubowski.

Hostage sister's hope

Nicosia — The Lebanese hostage crisis in Lebanon could be over in months, according to the sister of the longest-held victim, who arrives in London today on the last stage of a four-week world tour to investigate and publicize the issue (Mike Theodorou writes). Mrs Peggy Say said: "For the first time ever, there's a concerted effort to help end the crisis." Her brother, Terry Anderson, an American news agency journalist, was kidnapped in Beirut on March 16, 1985. "When we mark the fifth anniversary of his captivity next month, I am certain we will never mark another," she said. Syria, which wields great influence in Lebanon and is on good terms with Iran, was "genuinely and totally committed" to seeking an end to the hostage crisis.

Arrests after shelling

Khartoum (AFP) — Leading figures in south Sudan's main town of Juba have been arrested following a spate of shelling there by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army, provincial military security chief Ismail el Bayel said in a report Monday in the government paper Al Sudan Al Hadith. Colonel Bayel declined to identify them or to say how many were held. After questioning of the detainees, unspecified measures were taken against other people, he said. Juba has been under siege by the rebels for months, and its 300,000 population — 200,000 of them refugees from the civil war — face starvation. The latest rebel artillery attacks have forced international relief workers to quit the city.

CIA secrecy backed

Washington (Reuters) — The US Supreme Court yesterday allowed the Central Intelligence Agency to keep secret all documents on the bombing and sinking in 1985 of the Greenpeace vessel, Rainbow Warrior, in the harbour at Auckland, New Zealand, by French intelligence agents. The vessel, owned by the environmental group, had been preparing to monitor and protest against a scheduled French nuclear weapons test. Mr John Knight, a lawyer from Houston, sought — under the Freedom of Information Act, which mandates openness of government records — access to all CIA documents that dealt with the incident. The agency had refused to disclose any documents, warning that disclosure might reveal intelligence "sources and methods".

Forbes resting place

Sydney (Reuters) — The ashes of millionaire US publisher Malcolm Forbes will probably be taken to a spot on his private island in Fiji which commands a panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean, a former employee said yesterday. Mr Noel Douglas said he often accompanied Forbes, who died in New York on Saturday, on evening walks along the main beach on the island of Laucala and back to the family homestead. "He used to point to this spot near the house because it commanded a beautiful view of the sea and say: 'This is where I would like to be buried,'" Mr Douglas said.

Russian protest drive widens

From Mary Dwyer, Moscow

Life in Moscow today is a normal one, but the tight security that was imposed on the city after the 1989 election has not been lifted. The city is still a place of fear and suspicion, and the authorities are still trying to control the situation.

Mr Boris Yeltsin, the first democratically elected president of Russia, is still a controversial figure. His policies are still being debated, and his popularity is still being tested.

Similar demands made by tens of thousands of people in the streets of Moscow, where the protesters are demanding the resignation of the government.

Reformist

Moscow — Soviet reformers are believed to have won their battle to get the congress elected by secret ballot (Pewsky writes). The delegates are expected to bring the political system of the country closer to the next round, and the choice is made by the states who are supposed to be in the congress.

Speakers throughout the country are expected to bring the political system closer to the next round, and the choice is made by the states who are supposed to be in the congress.

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White House looks to future as surprise Chamorro victory defies pundits

Bush ready to lift sanctions

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

Washington yesterday greeted with euphoria the results of the Nicaraguan elections which the Administration here hopes will end a decade of civil war and of controversial US intervention.

President Bush, declaring himself "most pleased" by Señora Violeta Chamorro's completely unexpected victory, immediately began a series of meetings with senior advisers on how best to give trade and economic aid to Nicaragua and on the question of immediately lifting crippling US economic sanctions imposed in 1985.

"In this remarkable year of political change, democracy won another victory yesterday," he announced.

The White House stopped short of calling for immediate demobilization of the Contra rebel army which former President Reagan financed throughout the 1980s. But Mr Bush emphasized in a state

Fitzwater suggested that the Nicaraguan result spelled doom for President Castro of Cuba.

"We would hope that Cuba would take a look at its position and see that it is no longer tenable as we see the other countries in this hemisphere move towards democracy," he said.

Mr Fitzwater expressed confidence that Nicaraguan aid to left-wing insurgents in El Salvador would cease.

Mr Fitzwater said that the President had sent a message not just to Señora Chamorro but also to Señor Ortega, congratulating him on "the conduct of the election" and his "stated willingness to abide by the results" and expressing a willingness to work with him during the transition period.

If the Administration was nervous that the 70,000-strong Nicaraguan Army and police would remain loyal to the Sandinistas, it was not showing it, instead taking Señor Ortega's acceptance of the election result at face value.

However, Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, did warn: "The international community... will insist that the decision of the Nicaraguan people be respected and that full civil and military power be transferred to the newly elected Government."

Mr Bush contacted President Andrés Pérez of Venezuela yesterday morning and intended to talk to other Latin American leaders later in the day.

He was apparently trying to rally regional support for Señora Chamorro's incoming government both to dispel the notion that it will be dependent on the US - Señora Chamorro's party received about \$4 million (£2.3 million) in election funds - from Washington and to ensure that it is allowed to take power peacefully in April.

Former President Carter, who led a monitoring team in Nicaragua, also praised Señor Ortega's conduct during the campaign.

"It's almost unheard of in Latin America - and certainly (not) when you have a regime that's been in power for 10 years - to permit this kind of demonstration of democracy and freedom to take place," he said.

US non-military aid to the Contras expires tomorrow and Mr Martin Fitzwater, the President's press secretary, said that the Administration had not decided whether to ask Congress to extend it on purely humanitarian grounds. "We want to be helpful in any way we can at integrating the Contra forces back into (the) society of Nicaragua," Mr



A delighted Señora Chamorro arriving at party headquarters yesterday to meet supporters.

Gentle figurehead who rode wave of discontent

From Charles Bremner, Managua

When it elected Señora Violeta Chamorro as President, Nicaragua exchanged a guerrilla for a grandmother, a widow of gentle demeanour who held no pretension to high office until she was chosen by feuding opposition factions to carry their challenge to the rule of President Ortega.

Even when claiming victory yesterday, Señora Chamorro exuded little of the jubilation expected of a triumphant politician, and instead read drily from a text surrounded by the politicians who nominated her to bridge their wide ideological differences.

Comparisons with Mrs Cory Aquino are inevitable because both were thrust into public life bearing the mantle of a martyred husband. Pedro Joaquín Chamorro, a member of one of Nicaragua's most illustrious old families, was the newspaper editor whose murder sparked the 1978 uprising against the late Anastasio Somoza, an uprising that helped the Sandinista revolution to victory.

But the parallel is a limited one. Doña Violeta, aged 60, is an elegant and strong-willed woman but with little of the sense of mission that propelled the Philippines leader to the head of a popular revolution, a fact that the Nicaraguans acknowledge.

Señora Barrios de Chamorro, as the full name is put in Spanish, has emerged in recent months more as a figurehead channelling discontent in a country of three million people who have suffered 10 years of economic disaster and civil war. Above all, it was hoped by the motley coalition of businessmen and politicians behind her that she would symbolize the need for reconciliation.

The deep feud between the Americanized opposition and the left-wing Sandinistas has wrenched the Chamorros apart. Two of the president-elect's children are senior Sandinista officials, one of them editor of the main party newspaper. Her daughter Claudia, a senior diplomat, denounced her mother's politics in the newspaper as the country went to vote on Sunday, depicting her as the misguided victim of manipu-

lation. One son, named Pedro Joaquín after his father, became a leader of the rebel Directorate, and Cristiana, the youngest daughter, edits *La Prensa*, the family newspaper which survived through the Sandinista years as the only publication critical of the Government.

It would be hard to find a greater contrast than that between the politically shrewd and battle-hardened former guerrillas who led the Sandinista Government and the well-to-do newspaper owner who says she longs only for the peace that would bring Nicaragua and her family back together.

"I am not a politician," Doña Violeta said during the campaign. "But I believe that this is a patriotic duty, that I

have to do this for my country. We need reconciliation."

Señora Chamorro, daughter of a wealthy cattle-owner, has been exposed to one previous tour of political duty. After the 1979 revolution, she was a member of the junta of business executives and guerrillas that presided until the Sandinistas manoeuvred themselves into total power after a few months.

It was in the manner of a redeeming matriarch that Señora Chamorro conducted her campaign over the past few months, an image enhanced in recent weeks after she suffered a broken knee. The injury forced her to appear in a wheelchair driven on the back of a pick-up van, an arrangement which resembled a throne. She suffers a chronic bone condition that gives her

Exile euphoria

Miami (Reuter) - Nicaraguan community leaders yesterday praised the victory of Señora Violeta Chamorro and expressed the hope that many of the 150,000 Nicaraguans exiles here could return home. Señor Aristides Sánchez, a member of the political-military commission of the anti-Sandinista Nicaraguan Resistance, added: "We... throw all our support behind her, so she can achieve the reforms necessary to achieve democracy."

Only in the past few weeks did it appear plausible that this "kinder, gentler" candidate, to appropriate George Bush's phrase, could overcome the barrage of vitriol delivered by the Government and the largely state-controlled media against a woman they depicted as a stooge for the old corrupt ruling class that was brought down by the revolution.

Throughout the years of conflict, Señora Chamorro has managed to keep up a semblance of family life, receiving all her children at the little house on a leafy Managua square which contains a room amounting to a shrine to the late Pedro Joaquín. "My house is open to the family at all times. In this house there is a democracy," she says.

Colombian drug barons call for surrender deal

Bogotá (Reuter) - The group of Colombian drug lords known as the *Extraditables* called on President Barco yesterday to draw up an "adequate mechanism" that would allow its members to surrender.

The group, widely identified with the leaders of the Medellín cocaine cartel, said in a statement published in *El Tiempo* newspaper that it was also willing to draw up a national and international list of property used in drug trafficking.

The statement said the *Extraditables* had proven their willingness for peace by suspending a violent anti-government campaign.

"We hoped that the Government through one or more persons or an adequate mechanism would implement the process of our surrender," said the statement, addressed to a group of influential figures, including three former Presidents, a Roman Catholic cardinal and the head of Colombia's biggest left-wing party. "Through you we ask

the President for it today, so that in this form Colombia can oversee the culmination of the process," it said.

The statement said the group's aim was "nothing else than to contribute to peace and to eliminate, in good portion, the traffic of cocaine from Colombia to other countries."

The statement did not specify what it meant by "an adequate mechanism."

The Government has vowed not to negotiate with the drug lords and has said any response to their proposals must be constitutional.

The *Extraditables*, so dubbed because they are wanted for trial in the United States, declared war on the Government on August 24 last year to counter the President's anti-narcotics crackdown launched six days earlier. Señor Barco's effort reinstated extradition.

The anti-government campaign has included more than 200 bombings, including one blamed on the drug lords which blew up a Colombian

airliner in November, killing all 107 people aboard.

The *Extraditables* suspended their bombing campaign on January 17 and offered a truce with the Government.

It said then that the group would suspend cocaine exports and turn over their arms in return for unspecified "constitutional and legal guarantees."

Some Western diplomats interpreted these phrases as codes referring to an end to extradition.

The United States' list of 11 most wanted Colombian traffickers comprises alleged leaders of the Medellín and the rival Cali cartels.

Colombia's Army seized on Sunday more than 10 tonnes of cocaine and 11 weapons believed to belong to the Medellín cartel at a farm in central Colombia, an army official said.

The Army's 10th Brigade discovered the cocaine at a farm in El Bago, about 185 miles north-east of Bogotá, the official said.

Doubts raised over Australian formula for Cambodian peace

From Mary Magistav, Jakarta

Australia's initiative in yesterday introducing a detailed Cambodian peace plan at the opening of three days of talks here drew public praise and private criticism from some other delegates.

Last September, Vietnam ended its 11-year occupation of Cambodia, provoking the three Cambodian guerrilla factions to step up their fight to wrest at least a share of power from the Vietnamese-backed Hun Sen Government.

These factions are the non-Communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front, the forces of Cambodia's former leader, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, and the Khmer Rouge.

Since then thousands of Cambodians on both sides have died or been injured in the fighting. The guerrillas have gained some of north and western Cambodia as their own, moved some of their bases from Thailand, and now say they are the official, United Nations-recognized internal government.

far the most territory, and aid officials on the Thai-Cambodian border say it has tried to move at least 30,000 civilians under its control from Thai camps into Cambodia.

The Australian plan proposes that the UN should run a "caretaker government" pending national elections; that it should plan, carry out and monitor those elections and that it should maintain a 5,500-strong peacekeeping force to make sure the Cambodian factions observe a ceasefire.

Under the plan, the Cambodians themselves would form a Supreme National Council but would devolve their governing authority to the UN.

As soon as the UN stepped in, the Hun Sen government and the UN-recognized guerrilla coalition government would both cease to exist. All the factions would put up candidates for the election.

Some delegates to the peace talks said the Australian plan sounded fine in theory, but

they doubted that the Cambodians would see it through in practice.

● Tank offensive: Cambodian civilians bore the brunt of a government offensive yesterday after troops using tanks and heavy artillery drove guerrillas from recently captured areas near the border with Thailand (Our Foreign Staff writes).

Guerrilla spokesmen said bombardments had killed or wounded hundreds of civilians and, on the Thai side of the much-crossed frontier, relief officials prepared for a new stream of refugees.

Meanwhile, Pinom Penh has sent reinforcements to the strategic north-western town of Svay Chek, which is being fortified in the wake of its recapture last week from non-Communist guerrillas.

Khmer Rouge guerrillas yesterday captured the airport at Battambang, also in the north-west, the country's second largest city, according to a resistance radio report monitored by the Thai military.

Indian state elections Gandhi tries to stage rural comeback

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

The advertising men have been paid off, high-brow newspaper campaigns have been cancelled, and Indian politics has gone back to the village.

Three months ago the Congress (I) party of Mr Rajiv Gandhi lost the general election after an expensive, high-gloss campaign that its officials today mock as plain pathetic.

The comeback battle in assembly elections in eight states today has returned to basics - to the tradition of street plays, each thickly coated with innuendo and mean-spirited force.

Ayo Re Mahara Tau ("Here Comes Our Uncle") is the title of one play doing the rounds in the dusty, densely populated northern heartland, the home of most of the 215 million people eligible to vote today.

"Uncle" is plainly meant to be Mr Devi Lal, the green-turbaned Deputy Prime Minister, whose unending political antics are part of Indian folklore - much to the

embarrassment of the ever-honourable Mr Vashwanath Pratap Singh, the Prime Minister.

Mr Lal, aged 75, bestowed the title of "Uncle" upon himself in the Central Hall of Parliament last December when he took the oath of office. Children in India customarily call older men uncle - *tau* in Hindi. The play shows the *tau* as a king who happens to wear a green

embroidered shirt of the ever-honourable Mr Vashwanath Pratap Singh, the Prime Minister.

Srinagar (Reuter) - Thousands of Kashmiri Muslims, demanding independence from India and waving flags from the part of the state controlled by Pakistan, marched yesterday to the United Nations office here.

turban. He is escorted to the throne while the chorus sings "Here comes our king, here comes our big uncle."

The script takes the audience on a meandering journey through real-life events involving Mr Lal's authoritarian reign as Chief Minister of Haryana state in 1977-79.

There is direct reference to Jagdish, his youngest son, who was accused of trying to rape the wife of one of his farm employees. "About my fourth son, I have already informed the press that he is a drunkard," the turbaned *tau* declares to a rickshacking audience.

Some of the play's characters declare that money has to be paid to get a job in Haryana. It requires a bribe of 8,000 rupees (about £280), for example, to become a constable - which is not all that funny, because it happens to be true.

Another play, *Bade Baap Ki Be* ("Daughter of a VIP") takes a bitter-sweet look at the kidnapping of the daughter of Mufi Muhammad Sayeed soon after he became Home Minister in the new Government. Everything that the kidnappers demanded was granted, and the girl was released unharmed. The play opens with the daughter of a common man being kidnapped. Officialdom is pitilessly uninterested.

With great bitterness the plot then contrasts the enormous outpouring of official compassion when a minister's daughter is seized.

Street plays were used to great effect by the Janata Dal (People's Party) in the general election. The Congress party relied instead on a Bombay-based advertising agency - run by an old schoolfriend of Mr Gandhi - which produced a newspaper campaign so bad that it must rank as one of the great farces of Indian politics.

Mr Gandhi sped around India in a jet. Mr Singh spent most of his time chewing dust in the back of a trundling Indian-made Ambassador car.

Despite the Congress party's use of earthy street plays, the personal contrasts hold true in the assembly elections, too. They are two very different men - one of them polished and Westernized, the other reticent and rooted in the village earth.

So it is sweet revenge for Congress to re-enter the villages with their jibing attacks on the characters that drove them from office.

Historians uncover beardless Lincoln

From James Bone, New York

Abraham Lincoln is immortalized on Mount Rushmore, sporting his famous beard.

But two historians have now discovered an early portrait, which shows that he did not always wear his distinguished whiskers.

Until recently, historians believed that Lincoln had never had his portrait painted before he became a presidential candidate in 1860. But in the forthcoming issue of *American Heritage* magazine, two Lincoln experts, Mr James Swanson and Mr Lloyd Ostendorf, tell how an earlier painting came to light showing the future President clean-shaven.

The trail began at a Chicago antiques show, when a dealer exhibiting an oil portrait of Lincoln from the 1864 presidential campaign mentioned that he knew of an even better Lincoln painting still hanging in the front parlour of the owner's home in Illinois.

Mr Swanson, a collector of Lincoln memorabilia, was inspired to make the trip to the red-brick farmhouse in the heart of the countryside where

Lincoln settled.

The 86-year-old owner told him that her grandfather's brother-in-law, a "Dr Jenkins" was a physician and amateur portrait painter, and in 1912 her mother had discovered a dozen of his canvases.

Among them was the picture of Lincoln dated May, 1856, when Lincoln was 47 and a prominent lawyer and ambitious politician. This made the picture, attributed to Philip Jenkins, the first portrait of Lincoln ever painted.



President's changing image: The familiar bearded Lincoln and the newly discovered portrait.

Mutineers vow to oust Aquino

Manila (AFP) - Military mutineers vowed in an open letter here to depose President Aquino, and apologized for helping to bring her to power.

The letter came a day after Mrs Aquino led a rally to mark the fourth anniversary of the uprising that toppled the late Ferdinand Marcos.

Oil impasse

Wellington (Reuter) - New Zealand has abandoned its quest for an agreement on environmental safeguards, which would have allowed limited mining and oil drilling in Antarctica, to try to end an impasse among Antarctic Treaty countries.

Deaths claim

Lisbon (AFP) - Hundreds of unarmed civilians died when Mozambique government troops launched a big attack in the Gorongosa region, where the rebels have their headquarters, a rebel communiqué issued here said.

Shuttle delay

Cape Canaveral (Reuter) - The space shuttle Atlantis, carrying five military astronauts and a secret payload, believed to be a spy satellite, was grounded for the fifth consecutive day because of heavy cloud.

Damages win

Melbourne (AFP) - Sarah Jarm, aged seven, born with severe brain damage, won £675,000 in compensation from Dr Bertram Vaurenne, whose delivery of her was criticized. He denied liability.

Swede returns

Stockholm (Reuter) - The Swedish Parliament reappointed Mr Ingvar Carlsson, the Social Democratic leader, as Prime Minister just 11 days after his minority Government resigned.

Korean denial

Tokyo (Reuter) - North Korea admitted it is building a nuclear power station but denied reports that it was trying to make nuclear arms.

Wolf Prize

Jerusalem (AP) - Mr David Thouless, a Scottish-born American, and M Pierre-Gilles de Gennes, of France, have won the £60,000 Wolf Prize for physics.

Baker is accused of council

The battle continued at a community meeting in Birmingham, England, yesterday, as the council's budgeting process was challenged by the opposition. The meeting was held at the Birmingham City Council Chamber, where the opposition leaders, including Mr. Baker, accused the council of mismanagement and called for a change in leadership.

Mr. Baker, a Conservative Party member, accused the council of mismanagement and called for a change in leadership. He said that the council's budgeting process was flawed and that the council was not doing enough to improve the services provided to the community. He also accused the council of being too close to the opposition and of not being fair to the voters.

Football firms not to get aid

The Football Federation of England has announced that it will not provide financial aid to football clubs that are in financial difficulty. The decision was made after a meeting of the federation's executive committee, which was held in London yesterday. The committee decided that the federation should not be responsible for the financial problems of individual clubs, and that clubs should be responsible for their own financial management.

Security for Parliament

The House of Commons has voted to increase the security measures for the House of Commons. The vote was taken after a report from the Security Committee, which recommended that the House should have a more secure environment. The committee said that the House should have a secure perimeter, and that there should be a secure route for members of the House to and from the House.

EC papers discussed

The European Commission has discussed the possibility of introducing a new set of rules for the European Community. The rules would be aimed at improving the efficiency of the Community's administrative system. The Commission said that it was considering a number of options, and that it would be consulting with the member states on the best way forward.

Parliament today

The House of Commons will debate the issue of the European Community's budget. The debate will be held in the afternoon, and will be chaired by the Speaker of the House. The opposition will be expected to challenge the government's position on the budget, and the government will be expected to defend its position.

Man the H

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February 26 1990

PARLIAMENT

'Baker the bully' is accused over council budgets

The battle over the community charge continued at Commons question time, with Dr John Cunningham, shadow leader of the House, saying that fixing of local council budgets were too important to be subjected to the arm-twisting and bullying of Mr Kenneth Baker, chairman of the Conservative Party.

Mr Baker retorted that, while Conservative councils looked for value for money and reduced community charges, Labour councils were seeking ways to increase expenditure. He was answering as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Mr Michael Jack (Fylde, C) opened the exchanges by telling him that "Duchy residents were suffering from the worst case of pillage since the Vikings."

They were facing an unnecessarily high community charge because of overspending by Lancashire County Council. They would have been helped if the council had accepted the suggestion of its Conservative group of a budget £60 million less than was proposed by Labour.

Mr Baker said that when he was in Lancashire on Friday he had met many people who were angry with the council because

its spending had gone up by 17.5 per cent - a huge £123 million. If the ruling system had continued, the rates would have gone up by 32 per cent this year.

Labour MPs: Not true. Conservative MPs: Disgraceful.

Mr Baker congratulated the Conservative group for putting forward proposals setting out in detail how they would reduce the community charge in a full year by £60 a person (Labour laughter).

Dr Cunningham said that the fixing of budgets for education, the care of elderly people, the provision of social services and housing needs were far too important to be affected by the arm-twisting, bullying and intimidation of the chairman of the Conservative Party.

"Whatever has happened to the idea of poll tax providing more accountability for local government? That seems to have gone out of the window, with ministers and the chairman of the Tory Party ringing the leaders of local authorities to threaten them."

"Has he seen the comment by CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) on the fictitious figures used by the Prime Minister last week in an effort to manipulate people's opinion and, since he is talking about the effect of high poll-tax figures, why does he not deal with the situation in his

own area of Surrey? "Why does he not compare Lancashire with Surrey. Working where the charge is 36 per cent above the government figure; Farnham, 49 per cent; Eastleigh, Hampshire, 48 per cent and Dover, Kent, 48 per cent. And what is he telling his Tory constituents in Mole Valley?"

Mr Baker said that Conservative authorities looked for value for money and tried to find ways to reduce the charge, while Labour authorities were looking for ways to increase expenditure. He was surprised at the brass neck of Dr Cunningham, who was, as he understood it, sole author of Labour's roof tax and local income tax (prolonged Labour protest).

"My constituents want to know what they would pay under the Cunningham roof and income tax, which he announced last year with a great flourish of trumpets. But the Shadow Cabinet panicked and he was told not to say any more about it."

The Labour Party has to come clean on the alternative to community charge.

"It is dishonest for them to campaign on an alternative when the electors do not know how they will be affected."

"If the electorate does not know how it will be affected, the Labour Party is cynical, dishonest and hypocritical."

Letters, page 15



Mrs Joan Ruddock, MP, with fellow anti-pollution campaigners who are protesting against the proposed south circular road improvements, taking their petition to Parliament yesterday. They fear that the road will hugely increase traffic and blight housing in parts of south London.

Rothschild offer 'magnificent'

Peers' plea for 'Three Graces'

Peers from all sides of the House of Lords pressed the Government to act immediately to delay the export of the Canova sculpture 'The Three Graces', so that the offer from Mr Jacob Rothschild, which would keep it in Britain, could be considered.

The order banning the export of the sculpture was made on March 12. At the weekend, Mr Rothschild proposed a £7.6 million package to save it from export to the Getty Museum in California.

Lord Hesketh, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, held out the possibility that the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry might review the temporary order banning the export of the sculpture.

The matter was raised by Lord St John of Fawley (C), a former arts minister, who said that 'The Three Graces' represented an important work of classical sculpture. It was commissioned for Britain and should be retained here.

The situation had been transformed for the better by Mr Rothschild's generous and ingenious offer. What was the Government's policy towards it? There should be a positive response. The time had come for a review of the rules governing the export of works of art.

Lord Hesketh said that Lord St John's views on arts and taste were always taken

seriously by the Government. The sculpture had been loaned for the Duke of Bedford of the day, not the nation.

Discussions were going on at the moment, including one concerning Mr Rothschild's offer, and therefore it would not be right to comment further.

Lord Strabolgi (Lab) said that as the export ban was due to expire in a fortnight the Government should consider extending it in view of the generous offer of Mr Rothschild. It was the least the Government could do.

Lady Birk, chief Opposition spokesman in the Lords on the arts and heritage, said that the Rothschild offer was magnificent. The Government should accept it unless it was prepared to put up the money.

Presidential works of art were becoming increasingly more costly, and were beyond the resources of national galleries and museums. Unless the Government produced the funds to buy important works of art - because there would not always be a Mr Rothschild - the export control system would be shown up as a time-wasting farce.

Lord Hesketh: This country is a treasure house of antiquity and beauty which I believe more than anything else above the surface of the earth has worked over the years. He said that

other countries might have tougher regulations but the result had been that they had been cleaned out illegally.

Lord Hesketh of Liddington (Lib Dem) asked who was this great patron of the arts domiciled in the Cayman Islands?

Lord Hesketh said that works of art had often been bought anonymously. The Government believed the owners were reputable.

Lord St John of Fawley said that there were four government ministries involved in the matter. Because the ban expired in two weeks the Government should extend it otherwise, between all these ministries, it would be bungled.

Lord Hesketh said that every effort would be made to ensure that it was not bungled.

Earlier, Lord Hesketh said that the Minister for the Arts (Mr Richard Lee) had explored with interested parties a number of proposals and their funding implications.

However, Save Britain's Heritage had now served a writ for a judicial review of the Secretary of State for the Environment's decision not to take the building enforcement action, which would have the effect of having the sculpture returned to Woburn Abbey. "It would not be appropriate in the circumstances for me to comment further."

Injuries board attacked

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board had replaced the Passport Office as the most incompetent, idle and irritating organ of government, Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C) said at question time in the Lords.

There were more than 95,000 cases outstanding, which was a severe hardship for people who had already suffered.

Lord Harris of Greenwich (Lib Dem) said that there was a backlog of some 100,000 cases. The Government should guarantee that there would be a sharp improvement in the situation within a matter of months.

Earl Ferrers, Minister of State, Home Office, said that there were 95,000, not 100,000, outstanding cases. Applications for compensation had increased from 43,000 to 53,000 last year.

Lord Mischon, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs in the Lords, said that if there were 50,000 applications a year, there must be some two-year-old cases that had not been started.

Football firms not to get aid

Companies that invested in designing the technology necessary for the football identity card scheme - which the Government has now cancelled - will not be compensated.

Mr Colin Mayhew, Minister for Sport, said in a written reply that the question of compensation did not arise. Companies had responded, in competition, to the invitation to tender for the national identity card scheme issued by consultants on behalf of the football authorities.

The companies had been fully aware that, in considering whether to implement the scheme, the Government would take account of Lord Justice Taylor's final report.

E Europe and UK are compared

Labour MPs took advantage of Commons question about parliamentary contacts with the countries of Eastern Europe moving towards democracy to draw invidious comparisons between those burgeoning democracies and what they saw as the repressive nature of the British Government.

Mr David Wismick (Walsall North, Lab) said that countries which were beginning to establish parliamentary democracy would wonder why, in Britain, a Tory Government had taken away the right of a large number of people in local government to

stand for another local authority or Parliament.

Dr John Cunningham, shadow Leader of the House, asked if recommendations were being made to these new democracies that they should introduce 50 Acts of Parliament taking away powers from the local level? How many requests were being received about introducing a poll tax?

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, said that Eastern European countries were interested in the sensible nature of local government taxation in Britain.

'Cash for UDM' claim denied

A claim that the Government was to give money to the Union of Democratic Mineworkers to allow it to buy into the coal industry when it was privatized was denied at question time by Mr John Wakeham, Secretary of State for Energy.

The claim was made by Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab). He asked Mr Wakeham to confirm that he had discussed with the leaders of the UDM the privatization arrangements for British Coal and that money would be "handed" to the UDM in order for it to set up companies in advance to buy in to British Coal. Had taxpayers' money been handed over to the UDM in any form?

Mr Wakeham said that no taxpayers' money had been handed over to the UDM. Mr Skinner was quite wrong if he thought he knew what went on during his meeting with the president of the UDM.

"I said that the Government was committed to privatization of the coal industry in the next session of Parliament, but that the Government had not yet determined the best way in which that should be done and that I would welcome his suggestions as to what he thought would be the best way for it to be done. I am awaiting his suggestions."

Mr Alex Eadie (Midlothian, Lab) asked whether Mr Wakeham had been candid and frank

ENERGY

on his talks with the UDM. Had he told it that the Government's policies would mean the biggest contraction, correspondingly, of coal mining in the North, since the Government had insisted that it would go ahead with the importation of low-sulphur coal?

Mr Wakeham said that the subject of low-sulphur coal had not been discussed, but had it been he would have told the UDM that the Government was committed to the European directive (on reducing sulphur emissions) and there had been no change in that.

He would also have said that the Government, like its predecessors, would not restrict the importation of coal.

He had told the UDM that the future plans of British Coal in the United Kingdom economy depended on its ability to be the supplier of choice to the generating industry.

Further energy questions included:

- The Government was challenged to set a better example on energy conservation. There were questions as to why the Prime Minister had spent 20.6 per cent more on central heating at 10 Downing Street.
- Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C) said that all over the country,

buildings in the public sector had their lights on at noon on bright days, as well as that, they were too hot.

Mr Peter Morrison, Minister of State for Energy, said that he chaired a committee of government departments to achieve precisely the aim that Mr Gow would like. Energy-efficient buildings that had been installed in his own department used a fifth of the normal amount for light bulbs.

Mr Skinner asked him to look at the figures for central heating in the Houses of Parliament.

"In every year since I have been an MP, the authorities concerned have spent a small fortune every year to try to get it right and they have not succeeded yet." What was the total bill? His guess was £20 million.

Could Mr Morrison also go to Number 10 Downing Street and find out why the Prime Minister had spent 20.6 per cent extra on central heating. Was it because of Bernard Ingham and all the others he had got up there in the attic?

Mr Morrison said that it would be for the Services Committee to look at Mr Skinner's first point. As far as the figures were concerned, he would look into every aspect in terms of cost and energy.

• It was a reasonable deduction that the price of privatized electricity would be lower than

it would have been under a Labour government, Mr Wakeham said.

He said that the return that the privatized electricity industry would earn would be slightly less than the 5 per cent return on assets which would have been required under Labour's policy had the industry remained in the state sector.

The price of electricity had to be determined as a price which was not excessive and which enabled the industry to earn a reasonable rate of return.

Mr Rhodri Morgan, an Opposition spokesman on energy, had asked Mr Wakeham if he would ask the chairman of the area electricity boards if they would agree with Mr John Baker, National Power chief executive-designate, that there was no economic reason for any increase at all in domestic electricity prices from April 1 and that, for the third year in succession, the Government was imposing an increase in these prices at least twice as high as the industry had asked for.

He asked amid laughter whether the motives for "jacking up" electricity prices were a form of taxation, using fuel prices to encourage conservation - an insidious road tax - or was it just that the rate of return was not high enough "for their friends in the City"?

Mr Wakeham: You are quite wrong.

Move to stop pub 'opt-outs' rejected by Government

An attempt by the Opposition to prevent brewers and their public house tenants opting out of the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant (Licenced Premises) Bill, which extends greater protection to tenants, was defeated in the Commons.

An amendment to the Bill to prevent landlords and tenants mutually contracting out of the legislation was rejected by 160 votes to 64 - Government majority, 96.

Moving it, Mr Douglas Henderson, an Opposition spokesman on trade and in-

dustry, said that the Bill did not provide a proper balance in the relationship between the brewer and the public house tenant. Brewers were able to put undue pressure on tenants to exclude themselves from the terms of the Bill.

Mr Stanley Gower (Rotherham, Lab) said that the Government was moving in the right direction in extending the Landlord and Tenant Act to licensed premises. But their purpose would be frustrated if the contracting-out provisions were allowed to stand. The brewers

were being given a bitter pill and the opting-out provision was to sweeten it.

Mr Ivan Lawrence (Barton, C) said that the Government should write into the Bill "just a mite more protection" for licensees so that everyone could feel that the Bill was fair.

Mr John Redwood, Under Secretary of State for Corporate Affairs, said that the tenant and landlord had to go jointly to court to seek permission to have a contracted-out tenancy. That was a protection against undue pressure.

Man the House of Lords loves to hound

By Sheila Gann, Political Reporter

The fate of the Government's unloved scheme for student loans lies largely in the hands of Lord Cailness.

If the upper House gives it a bloody nose today in the crucial second reading vote, it will be by no means the first time that he has suffered defeat at the Dispatch Box.

In fact he must hold the title within the Government for the number of times he has been forced to give ground to rebellious peers over contentious Government legislation. This time he faces intense scepticism from the large band of vice-chancellors and other peers with university links in the Lords over the Government's scheme for interest-free loans.

After his debut as one of Lord Wakeham's "boy scouts", the twentieth Earl of Cailness has gone on to survive revolts in the House of Lords over criminal justice reforms, poll tax, water privatization, housing and "green" issues, as well as invasions of the Chamber by London schoolboys.

His own education was confined to Marlborough College and the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, where he took - and eventually passed - his chartered surveyor's examinations.

Now, at 41, he holds the post of Paymaster General - despite the restrictions on the power of the Lords to deal with money matters.

It is the first time in eight years that the upper House has had a Treasury minister - and he is expected an easy legislative session in his new post. But the lack of "heavyweights" on the government front bench has landed him with the Education (Student Loans) Bill



High Auditor, I should never discover the fraud."

But the key task for the present incumbent is to collect and save public money.

He is in charge of Customs and Excise, which collects £44 billion a year in value-added tax and excise duty; cuts executive public spending; handles the pensions of 1.4 million public servants; and oversees Britain's contribution to the EC Budget.

He is working for better scrutiny and accountability of the £7 billion spent annually by the Government on non-military equipment. This year the exercise achieved savings of £230 million.

He told The Times: "Until recently there was no great determination to make sure we are doing it in the best way. It should have been done a long time ago. We must demand better efficiency from Government, and we will continue to press for it."

He advocates a move away from national pay agreements towards regional and locally agreed deals. More flexible working hours and the use of more part-time staff are also a priority, he said.

Partly through privatization, the number of civil servants has fallen to 570,000 under Thatcher administrations.

He predicts faster moves to relocate civil servants out of Whitehall as ministers recognize the potential savings.

Following the lead of the former incumbent, Mr Peter Brooke, he is not setting targets for the number of civil servants he would like to see left in Whitehall. Instead, the ones have been shifted to departmental ministers to come up with relocation schemes. They

are conscious of a sympathetic hearing from the Chief Secretary to the Treasury during the public spending round if they couple their bids with cost-saving schemes in relocating to the regions. Therefore more schemes are coming forward.

An example, Lord Cailness will soon announce detailed plans for shifting 1,000 Customs and Excise staff from Southend to either Manchester or Liverpool.

He also has to help the service to cope with the challenge of the single internal market after 1992. It will mean, he said, more checks on trading accounts while keeping the ports of entry controls in the face of the threat from drugs and terrorism. There will be exchanges between officials throughout the Community with much more co-operation between forces.

"We want deregulation, but not to such an extent we can not check", he added.

Lord Cailness is also taking forward Britain's campaign to counter EC fraud, estimated to be as high as £6 billion a year. An EC committee report is due to be published soon. He believes that all 12 member states now have the political will to reduce it.

"There are people willing and able to abuse the system and with increased technology, to do it in a very sophisticated way. We have to guard against that," he said.

"But there is now a sea change in Europe and they realize that a bureaucratic system like the common agricultural policy and VAT is open to fraud abuse and it is going to require a great deal of closer liaison by all the countries to stop this in the future."

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Pershing paranoia in the Kremlin

For more than 30 years of my life (including my student years) I observed and studied Soviet officialdom. I tried to discover what the sources were of its false picture of the world, its failure to understand the West, and lack of knowledge of the workings of democratic systems.

When the Communist Party, which has ruled the USSR on its own for more than 70 years, was formed at the beginning of this century there were a number of well-educated people among its leaders, with a fair knowledge of life in other European countries (Lenin, Trotsky, Kamenev, Bukharin, Litvinov). None of them, however, was involved in democratic activity in these countries; nor did they manage to acquire any useful experience in the brief period of democratic evolution in Russia from 1906 to 1917. At that time the Bolshevik faction was one of the smallest and weakest in the Russian Duma (parliament).

In its theory and philosophy the communist party has always been opposed to democracy, contemptuously dismissing it as a bourgeois parliamentary talking-shop and referring to political activity in a democratic society as "parliamentary cretinism". The civil war and liquidation of internal party democracy at the 10th Congress, and concentration of political, economic and military power in the party's own hands and the consequent alienation of the Soviet regime, both from neighbouring European states and from its own population, created a feeling of isolation.

This resulted in more embittered attacks on democratic institutions abroad and the interpretation of any information from the West as lying, hostile and subversive. This attitude hardened in the years of Stalin's dictatorship, while at the same time the regime developed paranoia, suspicion and a strong propensity to internal and external espionage.

The thin trickle of information from the West which still flowed during the Twenties was completely choked off. All publications which were not issued by the official state publishing houses were banned. Later on, when Western countries started to broadcast to the USSR, these broadcasts were jammed.

The KGB was one of the organizations responsible for concealing this information from the public. It compiled lists of subjects, constantly brought up to date, which it was either forbidden to mention at all, or on which specific facts or figures might not be given. The list of these subjects alone filled volumes and volumes, and KGB officers were obliged to

familiarize themselves with them.

When I read them I discovered, among much else, that the following subjects had been banned: the number and location of concentration camps; the war with Finland in 1939-1940; the deportation of Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians to Siberia; contacts with Germans after the partition of Poland in 1939; the numbers of losses, including prisoners of war, in 1944-45; the causes of the Korean War and Soviet aid for North Korea in 1950-53 and financial aid for communist parties abroad.

I searched for any referring to Great Britain and found, among others: details of preparation for the trial of Metro-Vickers engineers in 1933; involvement of British organizations and individuals in the work of the Comintern, the international arm of Soviet communism; the extent and nature of British aid for the USSR during the Second World War; the size and strength of the Soviet Embassy in London; details concerning the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee's contacts with British political and social groups.

The repression unleashed by Stalin led to almost complete extinction in the USSR of all those

people, party members and others, who had known and understood life outside the Soviet Union or been involved in the democratic movement in pre-revolutionary Russia. The total brainwashing of the population began under Stalin, resulting in Aleksandr Zinoviev's words, in the creation of "homo sovieticus" — a being whose way of thinking did not reflect the realities of the surrounding world, but an artificially created false version of them. This indoctrination continued up to when glasnost began and traces of it still exercise a powerful influence in many places.

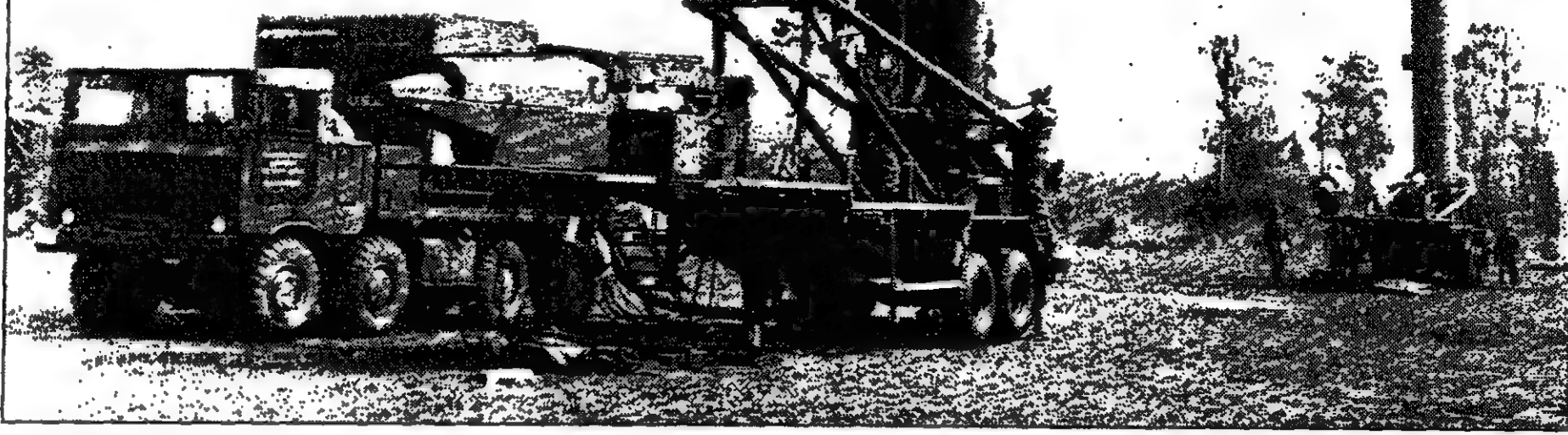
Nevertheless, there was a tacit realization that official propaganda was creating a less than adequate picture of the world. There had to be people who still had the opportunity to get to know information coming from the West to give a sharper edge to propaganda, to prepare counter-arguments and act as consultants for taking more balanced foreign policy decisions.

During the Second World War, a group of selected propagandists had access to the most hostile material put out by the Nazis. When I was in the KGB in the 1960s and 1970s, officers who were working against the West were allowed to read a wide range of Western publications. I myself was glad to make use of this. But one must not overestimate



In the first of three articles, Oleg Gordievsky, former KGB officer turned double agent,

describes how the closing of minds in the Soviet Union led to a fantastic image of the world — and a leadership with a near-fatal vision of the West as a nuclear aggressor



America's Pershing missile: when it was deployed in Europe, it was feared in Moscow that it would be powerful enough to destroy the Kremlin leadership's underground shelters

the importance of these persons in regard to the information available to the people. They exercised no considerable influence on government thinking — at any rate up to the mid-1980s — being few in number and only used occasionally, merely as pundits. Furthermore, they were not the most perfect interpreters of Western policy and thinking since they had usually only obtained access to genuine information in their thirties when they were already cast in the Soviet Marxist mould. One must add to all this the fact

that in insipid periods of Soviet history access to information from outside was restricted even for the small groups of experts. In the "age of stagnation" (the Brezhnev era) I noticed that even in the KGB the security classification applied to Western publications was heightened (editorials from *The Times* occupied a prominent place among them), sharply restricting officers' access to them. KGB officers on foreign language courses traditionally began their English lesson with listening to summaries of BBC

World Service news. However, items containing "anti-Soviet news" were erased before the recording was given to the students.

How well informed were the leaders of the USSR themselves? From 1929 to the time of Gorbachev there was not one man in the Politburo with a real understanding of the West. They made up for this by cunning, ruthlessness, relentless striving to gain the upper hand, and knowledge of certain weaknesses of the West, on which they had information from diplomats and intelligence officers.

The leaders of the USSR, of course, had access to all information about the outside world, but usually displayed a profound lack of understanding of the West. The reason is that their minds were formed in a climate of communist indoctrination, ideology and pseudo-scientific Leninist rhetoric. When they arrived in power and obtained access to any kind of information, they had the finished mentality of "homo sovieticus".

No information from the West could help them to acquire understanding since they had neither the time nor the desire to embark on self-education. It is true that they wasted a fair amount of time in reading secret telegrams from Soviet embassies abroad and KGB stations. However, contrary to the view widely held outside the Soviet Union, it is not the task of Soviet diplomats or intelligence officers to explain the workings and ways of the West to the Soviet leadership. All that is required of them is to inform the Kremlin of political decisions and foreign policy measures which concern the USSR, of plans for forthcoming manoeuvres and also to procure military and strategic information. This kind of information only scrapes the surface of Western life.

At a fairly early stage in the existence of the Soviet regime its isolation produced the phenomenon of seeing its opponent as a mirror image of itself. Expressed in practical terms, it sounded like: "They [the West] are basically like us, only more sophisticated. Democracy is a nonsense — nothing like that can exist. Parliament is just a facade. The government can do anything it wants, but it does not always wish to do so. Nobody can be independent of the government. Political parties are simply a trick to deceive the workers. Freedom of the press is a fraud and a means of manipulating the population by the bourgeois. The workers are still being exploited by the capitalist class. The police and security services are all-powerful and have files on practically everyone. There are hundreds of political prisoners in the jails. The intelligence services are carrying on espionage on a massive scale against the USSR, sending thousands of agents to Russia to gather intelligence and carry out ideological subversion." This list of stereotyped ideas could be continued *ad infinitum*.

The explanation of the Soviet leaders' ignorance lies not only in their self-isolation and self-imposed ideology, but also in their arrogance and vanity. Many of them considered that, having mastered "scientific socialism" —

a developed theory of a socialist economy based on Marx's teachings — they were superior to the capitalists, who had not assimilated this "advanced theory".

I was once in a group where I had the opportunity of observing and listening to the secretary of the Central Committee, Kapitonov, the future General Secretary, Konstantin Chernenko, and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, and had occasion to listen to speeches by Khrushchev, Brezhnev, and of course the heads of the KGB, Vladimir Semichastny,

diplomats, he talked about capitalism rotting away and the inevitable victory of communism, the aggressive NATO alliance, the decadent influence of Western propaganda and liberal ideas, aimed at undermining the ideological foundations of the USSR. He also spoke of the boundless love the nation bore for its communist party.

In the late Seventies the age factor began to influence the Soviet leadership. Rumours that Brezhnev had suffered clinical death were circulating widely in Moscow. Brezhnev's role was a passive one in his later years and it is not clear even now who was taking the decisions on foreign policy issues. It appears to have been a group of Brezhnev's advisers, some Neo-Stalinists from the International Department of the Central Committee and in the Politburo, Dmitri Ustinov, Gromyko and Andropov.

There was in these people's minds a strange combination of ideas of the West as essentially an aggressive and instantly fully armed opponent, and at the same time a feeble opposite number in negotiations who for the sake of progress in strategic arms limitation and preservation of détente would be guided by the parity principle agreed with the USSR and swallow Soviet expansion in Africa, Central America and Afghanistan, as well as deployment of SS-20s in Europe (from Moscow's point of view this was part of nuclear parity). Politicians who were sharply critical of the USSR's conduct at this time aroused the strongest irritation in the Kremlin. The propaganda machinery received instructions to mount a campaign to discredit Mrs Thatcher, President Reagan and the late Franz-Josef Strauss, the conservative German politician, and the KGB was called upon to take part in it.

The text of a 23-page libel on Mrs Thatcher, prepared by the KGB in 1980 passed through my hands when it was sent to KGB stations abroad, to be given to "agents of influence" — KGB contacts working in the political arena — who were to get it published under their own names. Discussing Mrs Thatcher's foreign policy the 1980 leaflet suggested that: "... Thatcher tried to make a bargain with the EEC partners along these lines: Britain as Europe's 'defender' will increase her defence budget in exchange for her partners' agreement to reduce the British contribution to the Common Market".

Mrs Thatcher's and President Reagan's election victories, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's hard line and NATO's decision in 1979 on deployment of medium-range missiles in Western Europe, and the sharp reaction to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan were heavy defeats for Soviet foreign policy, resulting from inadequate understanding of the West.

The deployment of "Pershing" was a particularly serious blow. It was believed in Moscow that these missiles had enormous penetrative power and would in the event of war destroy the Kremlin leadership's underground shelters, a system of complex bunkers constructed beneath Moscow and its environs, with comfortable quarters, offices, power plants, storage depots for food and water



Vladimir Kryuchkov, one of the former chiefs of the KGB

'In 1988 he confessed that we did not take into account the real shades of difference of attitudes of those with whom we were dealing'

Yuri Andropov, Viktor Chebrikov and Vladimir Kryuchkov. These speeches were not reported in the West. Kapitonov not only had no understanding of Western life, he was also intellectually conspicuously below average. Nevertheless, he carried on in a leading function for around 40 years and was retired only a couple of years ago.

Brezhnev, Andropov, Chebrikov and Kryuchkov always used prepared texts, irrespective of their audience, and the speeches were full of bureaucratic communist jargon. Khrushchev's simplified and distorted understanding of the West can be judged from his *Memoirs* published in the West. His authenticity has recently been confirmed in the USSR.

Gromyko was old-fashioned and doctrinaire, with a total absence of sparkle or sense of humour. He had no very profound understanding of the West, but at least he was master of foreign policy. The one who made the most leaden impression was Chernenko. Speaking to a group of

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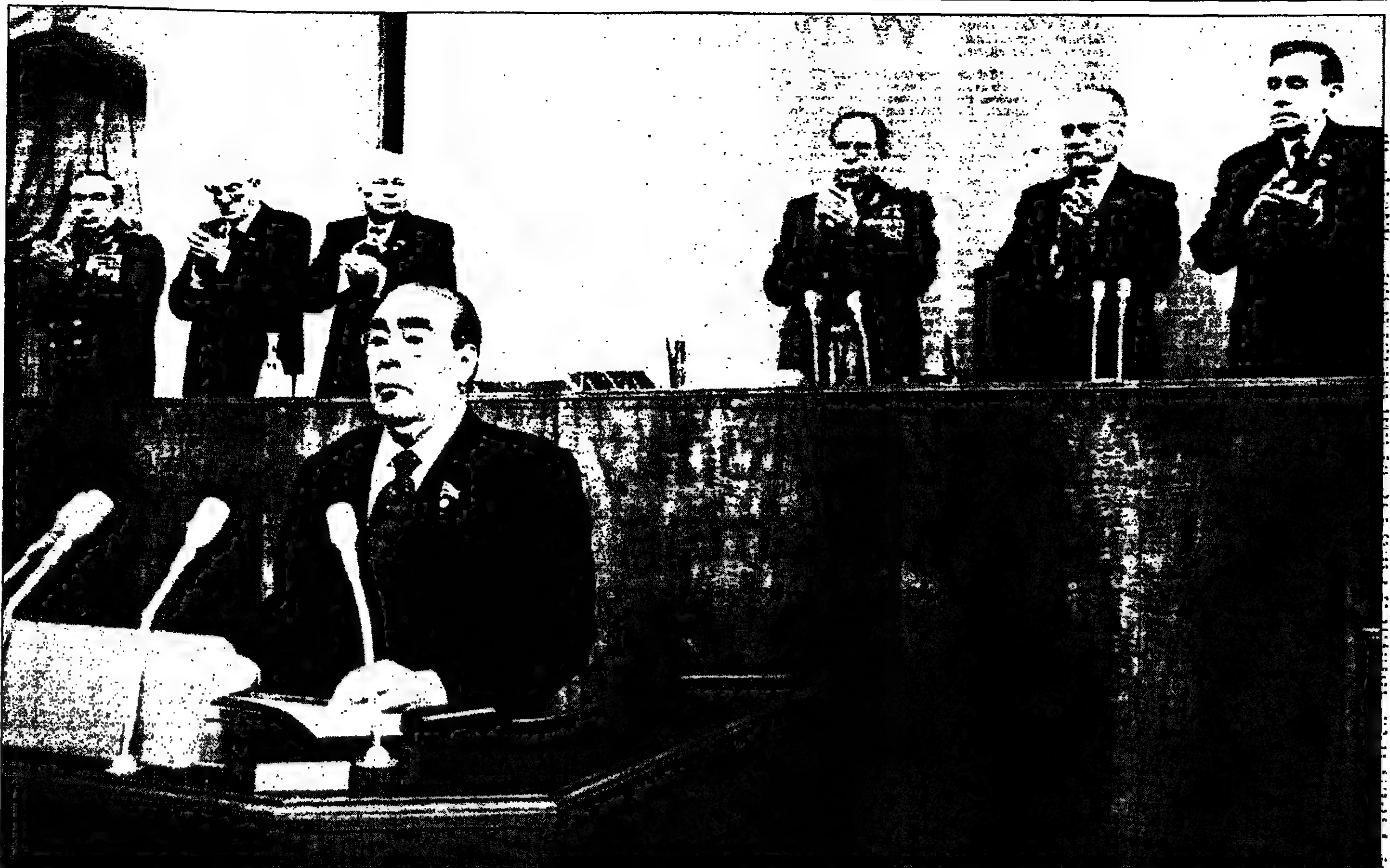
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The Soviet leadership in the 'age of stagnation': Leonid Brezhnev is obediently applauded by (from second left) Andropov, Chernenko, Ustinov, Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov and Gromyko as he addresses the Supreme Soviet Presidium in 1982.

and an underground railway network. However, Nato's desire to maintain its hold on Western Europe was thus turned into a mortal threat to the Soviet leadership itself.

The success of the campaign against the neutron bomb in America and Europe, inspired to a considerable extent by Moscow, encouraged the Kremlin to attempt to mobilize peace groups in Western Europe to combat deployment of Pershing and cruise missiles. Even KGB officers, who are used to anything, stared at these plans in disbelief. The Soviet Union had deployed more than 300 Soviet medium-range missiles with three nuclear warheads, — approximately 12 times greater than the total number of targets of any importance in Western Europe. Would anyone really be found to protest against a handful of Western missiles?

Yes they would, and in large numbers. Movements such as the Greens in West Germany, the CND and the women at Greenham Common in Britain were already in existence and ready to protest on their own account. Officials and delegations from the west, including Britain, were also actively courted by Soviet front organizations such as the World Peace Council and the Soviet Peace Committee.

The International Department of the Central Committee rejoiced and took the credit for mobilizing the masses of Western European pacifists to defend the interests of one of the superpowers. The KGB, whose help had been requested in this matter, also reported successes of its 'agents of influence' who had been involved in meetings and demonstrations, publishing articles in newspapers and putting parliamentary questions. When it became clear that it was impossible to get the Western governments to reverse the decision to deploy the missiles, Moscow gave orders for support for the campaign to be continued as a means of promoting more widespread pro-Soviet sympathy in the minds of the Western public.

In the face of Pershing, which could reach Moscow in six minutes from West German bases, and reports received from its intelligence service of an essentially new type of weapon being developed in America which would be able to render the Soviet deterrent useless (the future Strategic Defence Initiative — Star Wars), the Kremlin panicked. In so far as I was able to interpret them, its reactions — after the mirror image principle — were as follows: 'If we had a nuclear potential like the USA and a system which would eliminate their nuclear deterrent, would we deliver a pre-emptive nuclear strike against our sworn adversary? In all probability, yes. In that case, we must begin to prepare immediately for an American attack.'

It was therefore resolved to keep a close watch for any signs of preparation for such an attack, and all branches of intelligence gathering were brought into action. From 1982 to 1985 the KGB station in London had to watch for

any signs of increased activity at 10 Downing Street, the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign Office, the American Embassy and in the secret services and emergency services and inform Moscow Centre of the findings at fortnightly intervals. I have frequently heard people ask in recent years: 'Is it possible that anyone in Moscow seriously believed that the West could commit aggression and launch a nuclear war?' The answer is, unfortunately, yes, there were such people and evidently, from 1980 to 1985 they were in the



Aleksandr Yakovlev, the former Soviet Ambassador in Canada

'His inclusion was a sign of progress. After 60 years there was a man in the Politburo who knew the West from personal experience'

majority in the political and military leadership of the USSR. There is confirmation of this, in particular, in the speech made by Kryuchkov, the then deputy head of the KGB and head of the intelligence service at a conference at the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1988. With *glasnost* and the new political thinking already in full swing, he was still affirming, as was the case six years before, that it was the principal mission of diplomacy and intelligence not to overlook the immediate danger of nuclear conflict. Interviewed on Hungarian television in 1989, Marshal Sergei Akhromyev declared that in 1984 he believed that the USA could attack the USSR.

However, at the level of responsible officials, analysts and operational staff of the KGB the task of watching for signs of preparation for an attack was simply regarded as the latest piece of folly on the part of their chiefs. Nor, of course, did the diplomats — MFA personnel — believe in this nonsense. Nevertheless, no one in the KGB or the MFA dared to tell the

Kremlin frankly that there were no grounds for all this fuss. The KGB, and to an even greater extent the GRU, conscious that Moscow was expecting corroboration of its notion that the West was preparing to launch a nuclear attack, sent in fortnightly reports which, even if they may not have supplied convincing confirmation of the theory, by no means disproved it.

Shortly after Gorbachev's arrival all this nonsense came to an end, and in two years the new political thinking, that is, readjustment of Soviet foreign policy based on a more sober and enlightened approach to the outside world, was introduced. What had happened?

In my opinion three factors played a decisive role here. In spite of 'turning the screw' as regards access to information in the late Seventies, the number of people who were well informed about life outside the USSR had continued to increase. Having become a global superpower, the Soviet Union was forced to expand its army of diplomats, intelligence personnel, propagandists, correspondents, academic specialists on international affairs, and military personnel serving abroad. The KGB alone, which was active in 70 countries in the 1960s, now began to operate in more than 100. In the same period its strength increased from 3,000 to 12,000 officers. The KGB stations in Washington, New York, West Germany, France, Italy, Austria and India numbered a hundred or more officers. Notwithstanding the efforts of ideologists and censors to restrict the spread of information from those serving abroad, this became increasingly difficult to achieve. The detailed daily foreign press reviews produced by Tass made a positive contribution in this respect, since although the material which was most critical of the Kremlin was usually suppressed, the reviews had a fairly wide circulation among the upper and middle strata of the establishment in Moscow.

Second, an important change in the leadership had occurred in the person of Gorbachev. His mind, like those of many of his contemporaries, had been formed under Khrushchev's liberalism, and although he had absorbed many of the traditional communist dogmas and misconceptions, he knew that communism was not flawless and he was ready to listen to competent advice.

Third, and this is the most important point, Gorbachev selected as his principal advisor an intelligent academic, a former ambassador to Canada, Aleksandr Yakovlev, a man with a much greater understanding of the West than any of the previous advisors. It is true that in the West anti-American tendencies had been noted in his books, but this is due to a combination of two things: his tribute to the dominant ideology (no-one in the USSR could have achieved a career while avowing his sympathies with the west), and prejudices instilled by Soviet propaganda which he retained. Yakovlev's inclusion in the Politburo was a sign of enormous progress. For the first time in 60 years there was a man in the Soviet leadership who knew the

West from personal experience and whose vision was only slightly dimmed by the mists of Marxism. Thanks to Yakovlev, there was a complete change of character in the way in which the Kremlin was supplied with information from the diplomatic and intelligence services. They were not only allowed to report truthfully and objectively, they were instructed to do so.

In 1988 Kryuchkov, confessed that: 'In the past we did not distinguish very well between the

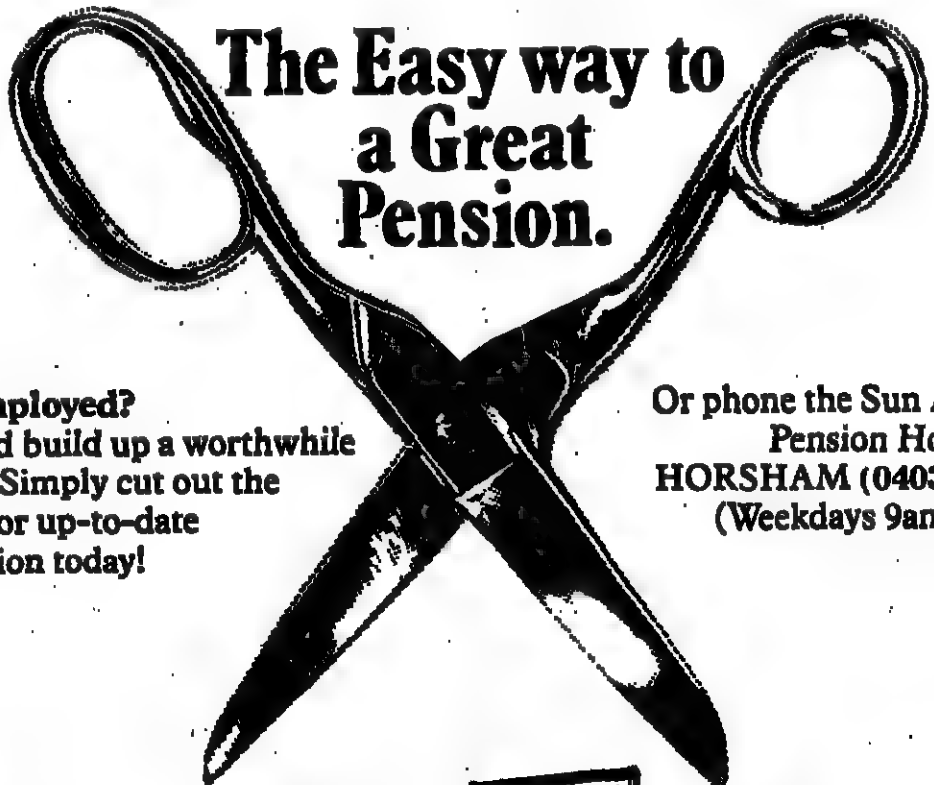
social and the political aspects of modern society and the many nuances and different trends in the disposition of political forces. The MFA experienced a still more drastic conversion to the truth under Eduard Shevardnadze in the mid-Eighties, who gave his full support to Yakovlev and Gorbachev. A reappraisal of the approach to studying life in the outside world was initiated in universities and other academic centres and *glasnost* began to unlock the floodgates for a stream of genuine accurate information

about Europe and America to reach the public as a whole.

The abandonment of traditional Soviet stereotypes, and more reliable information supplied to Moscow by representatives abroad have produced an improvement in the quality of foreign policy thinking. The decisions then made — the withdrawal from Afghanistan, the removal of medium-range missiles from Europe, and the liberation of Eastern Europe from Moscow's control — are the real, fundamental achievements of Gorbachev.

TOMORROW

Can Mikhail Gorbachov bring the 'evil Empire' in from the cold?



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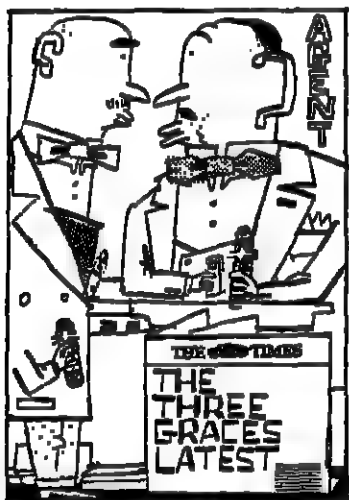
TIMES DIARY

ALAN HAMILTON

The Inner London Education Authority, on which the death sentence will be carried out on March 31 under the 1988 Education Reform Act, does not intend to die without a fair old wake. Famed for one of the worst exam records and one of the highest truancy levels in Britain, in spite of spending more per pupil than any other authority, the ILA plans to celebrate its illustrious achievements with a gala celebration of music, dance, poetry and art at the Royal Albert Hall on the night before its abolition. And that's not all; far from being abashed at its shortcomings, it plans services at St Paul's and Southwark cathedrals, a TV spectacular on London Weekend, and a community play on the 120-year history of London-wide education. Which, if it sticks to the facts, should make the last act of *Macbeth* a light comedy by comparison, although I do not know whether the Lady Macbeth who urged this particular murder is among the characters. The jollifications are all part of an attempt by the ILA's personable leader, Neil Fletcher, to emulate Ken Livingstone's glitzy staging of the GLC's abolition. After Ken's riverside spectacular there was scarcely a dry eye in the house. Neil may have more trouble in persuading the capital's parents to shed a tear.

Thousands of London householders have been puzzled in recent days to receive among their junk mail a brochure depicting on the front Antony and Cleopatra in a pose of impending intimacy, under the bold invitation, "Consider the delights of a foreign affair." What is this, an ad for Club Med singles holidays up the Nile? Not exactly; it's a recruiting campaign by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. "Age between 17 and 55; no previous experience needed." And there was I thinking they still trawled Balliol and Trinity. All right, so they're not looking to replace Braithwaite in Moscow or that other Antony, Acland in Washington; the mail shot is in search of humbler office staff. But isn't it still a bit tacky? That's the idea; a lot of people don't really understand what the FCO does, a woman in the recruitment section said gaily. No mention of foreign travel, by the way.

BARRY FANTONI



An ominous silence, I fear, from Dr Ronald Scheel, whose epic journey by Transat from East Germany to the Beaulieu motor museum in Hampshire I reported last week. There has been no further news from the good doctor since his trusty two-stroke was hit by a lorry near Stuttgart. If anyone out there knows of his fate, the message is that Beaulieu have had dozens of offers of Transats since my item appeared, but Dr Scheel and his P001 Linousine with solid glass-fibre chassis is the one they want. The only fresh information as of last night is that the bold motoring refugee is a doctor of engineering. Considering what he was driving, it might have been better had he been a plastic surgeon.

My recent report on the difficulties the Faroe Islanders are facing in getting the British to chip in for the 50th anniversary of the "friendly invasion" to keep the islands out of German hands prompts a response from the Rev George Stokes of Oxford. Chaplain to the occupation force, he recalls that the cruiser Belfast sailed in, and its captain went ashore to be greeted by the Danish governor. "I must protest against this infringement of our neutrality," said the governor. "But I've got a gun in the bay," said the captain. "So I see," replied the governor. "Come and have some whisky." We should give their planned British Week our every support, if only to repay that drink.

Last reminder that you have until Friday to win a bottle of 17-year old Glenfiddich single malt by providing not more than 100 words of fanciful Budget speech. Serious entries are, as usual, forbidden. John Major and shadows, I await your entries. Attempts to "Budget". The Times Diary, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

Was Concor Cruise O'Brien being provocatively in his article on this page on February 15 calling for sanctions against South Africa to be eased - or did he really mean it? Either way, his arguments do not stand up to analysis.

For a start, he warns off those who cite Nelson Mandela as an opponent of lifting sanctions. He criticizes Neil Kinnock for speaking "as if Mandela personally" was calling for their continuation, and he goes on: "But he made it plain that this was the policy of the ANC" - which, he implied, Mandela slavishly echoed without really meaning it.

Compare that with Mandela's own words on BBC television on Friday: "I don't see any reason for a review of sanctions until a settlement is reached between the oppressed people of the country and the government." That sounds like a pretty personal opinion to me.

As for the ANC, O'Brien dismisses its advocacy of continued sanctions by asserting that "collectively, it has no particular expertise about white politics". He derides politicians such as "Messrs Kinnock and Kaufman" who are in thrall to it. "All

Gerald Kaufman puts the case for continuing pressure on Pretoria

Why sanctions must stay

they could say was: 'The ANC says so, so it must be done.' As it happens, every sensible observer ought to pay attention to the views of the ANC because one day it will form the government of a free South Africa and will have vivid memories of those (including Britain under Mrs Thatcher) who supported its oppressors.

In any case, it is nonsense to accuse glibly Kinnock and Kaufman of listening to the views of the ANC alone and ignoring those of others with an allegedly more authoritative status.

President Bush, for example, was swift to rebut Mrs Thatcher's rash claim that he endorsed her move to ease sanctions. Only two months ago, in a declaration which had British support, the United Nations General Assembly demanded the release of all political prisoners and detainees, removal of all troops from the

townships, repeal of the Internal Security Act and the end of the State of Emergency before sanctions could be relaxed. None of these demands has yet been met.

The sanction on new investment which Mrs Thatcher has just lifted was imposed by the European Community Decision of October 27, 1986, having been passed by the Council of Ministers under the presidency of Sir Geoffrey Howe. According to the Decision's preamble, it was necessary because of the "refusal of the government of South Africa to take concrete measures leading to the abolition of apartheid". Although President De Klerk's recent announcement is to be welcomed, it does not touch the fabric of apartheid.

O'Brien might say that all past pronouncements on South Africa are invalidated by Mandela's release, that no one could have banked on it, and that it changes everything (though not,

as we now know, Mandela's own view of sanctions). Mandela's release had been widely expected, just before the Commonwealth conference in Kuala Lumpur last October, as a stunt to stymie discussion of tougher sanctions.

Despite their conviction that Mandela would soon be freed, the Commonwealth leaders declared that the "justification for sanctions against South Africa... was... to abolish apartheid by bringing Pretoria to the negotiating table and keeping it there until that change was irreversibly secured". Does O'Brien honestly believe that De Klerk's measures abolish apartheid irreversibly?

If he were to counter that Mrs Thatcher is not bound by the Kuala Lumpur statement because she dissociated herself from parts of it, there are two answers to this. The first is that the passage I have just quoted is

one from which she specifically did not dissociate herself. Secondly, her personal statement at Kuala Lumpur stipulated "the necessary steps" after which "it would be right to lift some of the measures imposed by the international community". One of those was the lifting of the State of Emergency, which, of course, is still in place.

By relaxing key sanctions now, Mrs Thatcher has breached not only the policies of the UN, the EC and the Commonwealth, to all of which she is a signatory, but her own word as well. What is more, that personal word was buttressed in her statement by the recommendations of the Eminent Persons Group which visited South Africa, and to which she nominated a representative. Another bunch of nincompoops bewitched by the ANC?

O'Brien is also wrong in the main thrust of his article. He

tries to scare us into believing that unless we give De Klerk a comforting hug without delay, there is a danger of "the loss of so many of his followers to the Conservatives that he could no longer deliver his policy of getting away from apartheid".

Here he ignores the fact that in the whites-only election last September, 70 per cent of voters rejected the Conservative party in the full knowledge that Mandela would soon be released and that other important steps would be taken. There would have to be an enormous backlash for the Conservatives to win sufficient support to imperil De Klerk's reforms.

Negotiations in South Africa have yet to begin. Relaxation of sanctions now might encourage De Klerk to believe that he can get away with fewer reforms than have been demanded by the international community (including, however reluctantly, Mrs Thatcher). She has eased sanctions and is contemplating easing more because she would not mind him getting away with less.

I cannot believe that in his heart Concor Cruise O'Brien really shares her view. The author is Labour spokesman on foreign affairs.

Storms today but a scorching '92

Has the Government lost its way? Norman Tebbit talks of it having no sense of direction or purpose, though many would suppose it has much the same approach and goals as when he was in the Cabinet. Nevertheless, his public misgivings must depress his ex-colleagues, even though they are accustomed to his occasionally bizarre comments.

Many factors are working against the Government. The most obvious is exceptionally high interest rates and the consequent annoyance of mortgagees. That they are suffering little or no hardship is left out of consideration. Repossessions fell from 22,930 in 1987 to 13,780 in 1989. Only 0.73 per cent of all mortgages were in arrears of 6-12 months in the second half of last year.

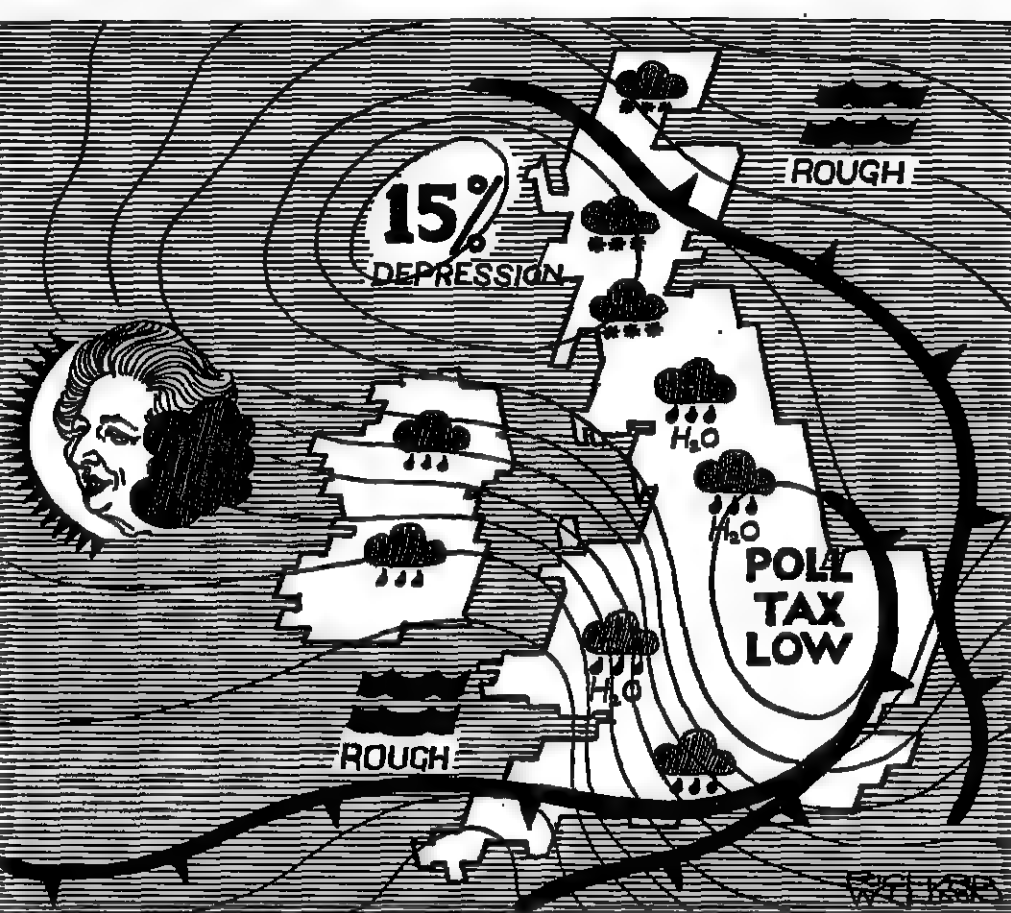
Lenders are desperate to avoid evictions and to accommodate borrowers in difficulties unless it is clear they should never have taken out a mortgage and that no further payments will be forthcoming. Rarely is a mortgagee unable to extend his repayment period or come to some other arrangement to lower his monthly outgoings.

Owning their own homes is still the best investment most people ever make, although house prices may fall temporarily this year by between 5 and 10 per cent. Yet the mistaken view of the 9.5 million mortgagees that they are hard done by is echoed by unthinking Tory MPs who massage their grievances.

A number of Tory council chairmen and MPs behave similarly towards the community charge. Undoubtedly this is highly unpopular in advance of its introduction and before its effects are known. As so many of its own supporters are against the charge, the Government's position is weakened. And the knowledge that electricity and water prices will rise after privatization is another minus for the Government. In the case of water, it is difficult to see how all the necessary purification measures can be implemented without extra expense, though this will not add much to consumers' bills.

More or less unchallenged, Labour has presented itself as a new moderate Thatcher look-alike party which will only increase taxation mildly for those earning more than £15,000 a year but will punish top-rate earners by increasing their taxation to 59.5 per cent, including a 9.5 per cent increase of their national insurance contribution. Hitting the rich is usually attractive in our envious society.

Not in defence so powerful a weapon for the Tories as hitherto. The changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe remove the fear in many minds of Soviet aggression, although opinion polls steadily show a large majority in favour of Britain keeping nuclear weapons so long as the Russians do. Maybe there is a hope that a Kinnock government would somehow fudge the issue and keep nuclear weapons anyway.



Woodrow Wyatt sees more than a ray of hope for the Tories despite the high interest rates now depressing their fortunes

The Government's attitude towards the EC, and its wish to have safeguards over German reunification (particularly for the repeatedly dismembered Poland) are probably supported, but there are not many votes in foreign policy, for the British have never been greatly interested in it. Our habit is to think it will be all right on the night and to cheer a Chamberlain after he has appeased an expansionist dictator, leaving it somewhat late to prepare and fight like lions if a war comes.

Another problem for the Government is its sheer longevity. The new generation is unaware of what life was like under Labour, and many of the older generation have forgotten. The suggestion that the Iron Lady has gone rusty is seductive. Few realize that her successors would try a stifling social democracy modelled on Sweden, where it has now collapsed in complete disaster. The public have still to be convinced that a Kinnock government would not be at all the same as the present government, which has strikingly raised living standards and prosperity all round. There is a cosy feeling that little would alter, apart from vastly increased spending on the NHS and welfare services, for which the money would readily be found on the trees.

This illusion is fostered by BBC and ITV broadcasts and in some significant parts of the

press, where more common sense might have been looked for. It is not dispelled by the sullen silence of some prominent members of the Government such as Sir Geoffrey Howe, from whom vigorous and unequivocal defence of the Government and exhortations to exposure of Labour's policy are eagerly awaited in some quarters. Perhaps he has forgotten he is deputy prime minister.

So what is going well for the Government? Its first real bonus for some time has been the ambulance dispute. Last weekend's polls - miserable for the Conservatives - were taken before the dispute ended in defeat for the union negotiators: a total vindication of the Government's determination to prevent a surge in inflation, which, had the ambulance men succeeded, would have followed through widespread imitation of their outrageous claims. Mr Roger Poole, the ambulance men's chief negotiator, said after the settlement on Friday that this had been his intention all along, although he had not told the sentimental public who were busy filling the ambulance men's buckets. The Government's poll ratings have clearly been damaged by the dispute, and that element of dissatisfaction will soon disappear.

The result of the next election will depend mostly on perceptions of the economy. At present these are not flattering, though gleams of light are appearing. The respected London Business School, reported in *The Sunday Times*, predicts lower interest rates later this year and a fall by a third (to 10 per cent) in early 1992. The School thinks the growth rate will be 1 per cent this year, but more than 2.5 per cent in 1991. It also believes the inflation rate will drop to 5.9 per cent in 1991 and 4.9 per cent in 1992. That would be a relief to Mrs Thatcher, who has said she may be judged by the Government's control of inflation. The School anticipates a 1990 growth in exports of 8.5 per cent despite a 1.5 per cent rise in imports.

Possibly the improvements will not have sunk in by the early summer of 1991, a time which, on past showing, Mrs Thatcher would choose for the election. But an election is not required before July 1992. Despite the evident demoralization of the Macmillan government at the end of its 13 years, and Sir Alec Douglas-Home having had only 10 months as prime minister, Labour won by a mere five seats in 1964.

If Sir Alec could manage that, it should not be beyond Mrs Thatcher, full of vigour and ideas, to win by at least 30 seats and probably by not much less than the majority she has now. She will be much helped if Tories resume their traditional loyalty and do not run for cover, or more disreputable places, when frightened by enemy gunfire. The forceful Kenneth Baker, party chairman, needs their united backing in exposing the frailty of Labour's policies, not least in its vague plan to replace the community charge by something really cruel and unfair to almost everyone.

The presenter ended yesterday's *Today* programme - itself now a regular topic on these pages - with the words: "What a day! Upset in Nicaragua. Stock Exchange crash in Tokyo. Gales in Britain." He seemed to imply that gales here were much less surprising and regrettable than electoral defeat for the Sandinistas in Nicaragua.

Certainly the media had long been conditioning us to expect victory for Daniel Ortega and his commandantes. I last visited Nicaragua nearly three years ago and, faced with the near-unanimity of the world's press in recent weeks, had come to accept that the situation I found then had changed fundamentally. Yesterday's election result demonstrated that little had changed after all.

Many Nicaraguans have an interest in the survival of the Sandinista regime: they are employed by it, serve in its large army or in a variety of political organizations based on the Leninist model.

The great majority, however, have long been hostile to the *Frente* government, and contemptuous of its claims. They are surprisingly ready, particularly outside Managua, to lament that living conditions were far better under the de-facto Somoza dictatorship.

The suggestion that their deprivations were largely the result of Contra attacks and the US blockade is widely rejected. People point to the US offer of massive aid when Somoza was toppled in 1979, and to the build-up of the Nicaraguan army - making it by far the largest in the region - which the Sandinistas began before the Contras started to operate.

Given the barrage of anti-American propaganda in the state-controlled media, the average Nicaraguan is surprisingly well-disposed towards the US. Indeed, the American baseball results carried on the sports pages are much more eagerly read than the thundering leaders denouncing Washington's latest alleged outrage.

The great majority of Western visitors to Nicaragua seem to have ignored or to have been unaware of the resistance to the Sandinistas among devout Catholics and in the struggling trade union movement. The leader of the Catholic Church, Cardinal Obando y Bravo, is a deeply impressive man, with a record of opposition to the previous dictatorship, but few Western correspondents were ready to accept his pessimistic analysis of what was happening to his country. They preferred the testimony of the foreign minister, Miguel d'Escoto, a former priest who is now forbidden to say Mass. Stories of Sandinista oppression of trade unions seldom found their way into the world's press.

How could the Western media have got things so badly wrong? It is, of course, by no means the first, although it is probably one of the worst examples of this failing. It seems that most reporters visiting Nicaragua

were lulled - often because they wished to be - and that subsequently they misled their readers, viewers and listeners.

Most of them arrived with their minds made up, accepting the conventional wisdom that the Sandinistas are a group of well-intentioned socialists struggling to protect their country from the depredations of a fascist opposition supported by US imperialism.

Once in Nicaragua, they were taken in hand by a slick government information machine, which passed them on to representatives of churches, international aid agencies and other Western expatriates who could be trusted to promote the official line. This manipulation of visitors was easy because few of them spoke enough Spanish to dispense with interpreters.

So it is not difficult to understand how the world has been fooled. What is more surprising is that Ortega appears to have convinced himself that he would be able to win Sunday's election without recourse to the sort of strong-arm measures on which he relied for his election "victory" in 1984. He seems to have believed that his position was virtually invulnerable. Secret government funding gave him immense patronage, and treated the media with a strong hand.

In 1979, the *Frente* simply took over Somoza's television stations, which are all now controlled by the "Sandinista Television System". The opposition broadcasts that were permitted were confined to a single, technically inferior television channel which did not broadcast to the whole country.

The government's television propaganda campaign sought to link the opposition parties with the Nazis, bribery and civil war. With these tactics, and in the belief that he could rely on the loyalty of the army, Ortega felt confident enough to invite thousands of international observers to attest the fairness of the elections and to witness the victory he anticipated.

Ortega is now caught in a dilemma. Having achieved what Mrs Glenys Kinnock has enthusiastically described as a "clean bill of health for the election process", it will be difficult for him to repudiate the people's verdict. If he tries, it is doubtful whether the army will back him.

Commentators who were explaining the reasons for Ortega's success until the results started to come in are now turning with hostility on the victors, the National Opposition Union led by Señora Violeta Chamorro. They suggest that the anti-Sandinista coalition will quickly break up - if it is allowed to take office - will face massive difficulties, but it will begin with a wave of popular support.

As in Eastern Europe, so in Nicaragua the voice of the people has made itself heard above the babble of the pundits. The author, *Conservative MP for Wycombe*, is chairman of the all-party Latin American Committee.

Can I eat my little friends?



ALAN COREN

Up until a year or so ago, I should not have given them a second thought. The first thought would have been: ampie. The first thought would have been: to kick the life out of them. But Jonathan Porritt has changed all that. They are my brothers now. Possibly my dinner. It amounts to the same thing. *Pace* W.H. Auden, we must eat one another or die. One day, after all, they will eat me. They like it around cemeteries.

They also, suddenly, like it around my lawn. I do not know why this should be so when it wasn't before, though I suppose it is the greenhouse effect, because everything else seems to be (I have not the slightest doubt that the recent peculiar events in Eastern Europe will all turn out to be meteorological in origin). They always visited my lawn regularly, mind, but you could tell they didn't like it, because they died,

and that is generally a reliable test of whether something likes anything. In fact, you hardly needed boots in the old days, I would spot them from the window, standing wonkily in little sporadic gangs, thin, pale, sickly, and by the time I had pulled my wellies on for the kicking and run outside, they would have keeled over and withered.

Yesterday I woke early, thanks to the month's third hurricane, and hurried to the bedroom window to see what had been horizontalized this time. (If this climatic change is permanent, the architecture of England will be compelled to change permanently with it. We shall all have to live in

circular bungalows with flat roofs, and no one will be allowed to grow a tree taller than four feet. The only fences you see will be in museums.) Anyway, the garden contained the usual detritus of trellis, tiles, bushes, bin-lids, flower-pots, and other assorted stuff which the night had brought to Crickwood from Huddersfield and Rhyll - but these were not what trapped the attention. They, after all, were merely scattered across the lawn. They did not cover it.

What covered it was mushrooms. Not, furthermore, the emaciated specimens of yesterday. These were serious fungi. You

could tell that not merely from their size, but from the fact that the gale seemed to be having no effect on them. They did not flinch. They did not snap. When it comes to roofing, I said to

myself, the gnomes can teach us a thing or two.

I hurried downstairs and out into the howling dawn, booted, but only against the wet. There would be no kicking today partly, as I say, because the Earth requires us to be one band of brothers, now, but also because we have learned not to squander her benisons. The mushrooms were no longer a parasite on my lawn, they were a crop on my field. They also, it must be said, pandered to that fantasy of self-sufficiency which has ever tugged the sleeve of urban man: this year mushrooms, next year barley, a pig where the rockery is, perhaps, fruit trees where the inessential

roses stand, hens clucking in the toolshed, oysters in the pond... I gazed at the massed ranks of plump stalks and broad caps. Where had they come from? Were they by-blows of restaurant jetsam, typhooned here to burgeon in my greenhouse soil? Were they spores from the Perigord, franchised by the wind to make nonsense of EC controls? Whatever their provenance, you did not have to be a Sainsbury's mycologist to identify some twenty quidsworth of sizzling nutriment.

Always provided - you guessed? - that they were edible. I ran inside again, we had a book somewhere. An hour later, I knew

where. I opened *Mushrooms, Toadstools and Fungi* by Alan Major. Its first line is "There are some 200,000 species of fungus in the world".

It is four hours later, now: almost lunchtime - or would be, if there were not 200,000 species of fungus in the world. I am standing in the middle of my crop, which, two minutes ago, I finally decided were Fairy Ring Champignons, "much relished by connoisseurs". Joy! Or, rather, joy? For, one minute ago, poised to commence garvering, I turned the page to find a picture of the False Champignon, "Now known because it sometimes appears among edible Fairy Ring Champignons. Poisonous".

And, at a guess, not much relished by connoisseurs. So what do I do now, Jonathan? I mean, friendship of the earth is all very well, but it has to cut both ways,



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THE SOVIET LEVIATHAN

Constitutions are only exceptionally the product of tranquil times, and some of those that have proved most enduring only emerged from the intellectual ferment of revolution. It is not sufficient to cite haste and juridical inexactitude as objections to Mr Gorbachev's proposed augmentation of his powers by the creation of a new presidential office. He might reply, not unreasonably, that the perils of civil war and anarchy now render imperative the overturning of the Constitution which he himself introduced less than two years ago.

Few doubt that the legendary resilience of the Soviet body politic is already ebbing fast. It is not responding even to its doctor's most strenuous treatments: the amputation of the central European colonies and perhaps the non-Slavic republics too; the grafting of a skin-deep "planned market economy" on to a collectivist system; and the revival of the failing heart of socialism with the ultimately lethal drug of democracy.

Mr Gorbachev evidently believes that a more drastic solution is now required. The new president would not merely exercise enormous influence over the affairs of state under normal conditions, he would also enjoy the supreme sovereign power: the right to decide when an exceptional situation had arisen, for the duration of which the other constitutional checks and balances would be suspended, is the ultimate sanction. Let nobody suppose that Mikhail Sergeyevich would hesitate to use it.

The auguries are not favourable. Presidential emergency powers were decisive in the collapse of the Weimar Republic, during which the issue was exhaustively debated. They were invoked in response to the ungovernable state of the Reich created by the rise of the anti-constitutional Nazi and communist parties; in practice the path to Hitler's totalitarian dictatorship was only smoothed by Hindenburg's democratic one.

A better precedent was provided by de Gaulle. The Fifth Republic has survived the powerful elective presidency, coexisting with a parliamentary system, which was bequeathed

by the General and intended to guard against the threat of a military coup, which was acute during the Algerian crisis.

In political maturity, however, the peoples of France and the Soviet Union are not remotely comparable. The French may be trusted to elect a head of state who will not abuse his emergency powers; the only authority to which the Soviet nations have been exposed for three generations has been one whose legitimization rested on fear. The opportunities for demagoguery and deception are immense. After Hitler, the West Germans did not trust themselves with the leviathan of potential elective dictatorship; they gave themselves a non-executive, indirectly elected president with no emergency powers. After Stalin, after an almost unbroken line of despotic rulers, would the Russians be well advised to ignore the German example?

Mr Gorbachev will no doubt have his way. He has earned his reputation as a man of extraordinary qualities. His preference for the radical, elegant and if necessary brutal solution to every problem recalls the youthful Alexander's attitude to the Gordian Knot. This force of character has enabled him to persuade the Communist Party to begin its abdication from power without waiting to be overtaken by events. If he is dragged down during the party's almost inevitable fall, many Russians who have always held the communist cause in contempt will spare him a tear of gratitude. If he survives in office under another banner, there will be many uses for his political genius in the service of his country.

But if Mr Gorbachev persists in his aggrandizement of personal authority, for purposes which remain unclear to those whose sacrifices he demands almost daily, he may forfeit the faith in his selfless devotion to reform, the foundation of his power. As the protests against his proposals on the streets of Moscow last weekend indicated, Mikhail Gorbachev risks exchanging the role of Lord Protector for that of Great Dictator. That would be a melancholy progression.

NICARAGUA'S SECOND CHANCE

The most impressive aspect of the Nicaraguan elections, handsomely won by Dolia Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, was the seriousness with which Nicaraguans voters took their first chance to vote in freedom since 1932. Their choice was not made easier either by the vagueness of both sides' political platforms or by the bitter polarization of the country after nearly 11 years of Sandinista rule and civil war.

President Daniel Ortega, the defeated candidate, far outshone his rival in charisma, in political experience and in campaign tactics. He dominated television, and could draw on the formidable resources of the Sandinistas' state and party machinery. Last-minute spending sprees included crash repairs to potholed streets, free pencils for schoolchildren and tax exemptions for thousands of poor workers. He made the most of Washington's financial support for the United National Opposition, presenting the Sandinistas as the guarantors of Nicaraguan independence and the opposition as the lackeys of American imperialism.

Dolia Violeta, by contrast, was a lack-lustre orator whose campaign, physically slowed by injury, was further hampered by factional quarrels. She belongs to no political party and she was fighting precedent: no woman had ever been elected president of a Latin American country. Her assets were three: her status as the widow of a national hero, a newspaper publisher assassinated in 1978 by henchmen of the dictator Anastasio Somoza; the Sandinistas' miserable economic record; and the prospect that, as one whose own family had been riven by the civil war, she would bring reconciliation at home and abroad.

The Sandinistas have said in the past that they could "give up the government but not power". President Ortega, having invited international observers to witness what he clearly expected to be a triumph legitimizing Sandinista rule, yesterday promised to respect

the result. But the Sandinistas remain the largest single party; and the interior minister, Señor Tomás Borge-Martínez, has suggested that the "revolutionary" loyalties of Nicaragua's huge army and militias would make it impossible for UNO to govern.

The Sandinistas' economic legacy — the result of printing money to finance military spending, five years of a US trade embargo and serious mismanagement of the civilian economy — was central to their defeat. The incomes of people already desperately poor under the Somoza dictatorship have collapsed since 1979, shortages are endemic and malnutrition widespread.

Reversing the economy will be a herculean task, but the basis may ironically have been laid by last year's austerity programme, which brought inflation down from 34,000 per cent to 1,700 per cent and cut 35,000 jobs from the state bureaucracy. The end of the US embargo, promised yesterday by President Bush, will help; the US market accounted for 75 per cent of Nicaragua's trade before 1985.

The period before president-elect Chamorro's inauguration on April 24 will be delicate. The massive popular support for change should, however, reinforce her authority as she attempts to forge a united government from within the UNO coalition. The Sandinistas may prove to have overestimated their support in the Armed Forces, many of them unwilling conscripts, just as they did that among Nicaragua's peasants and urban poor.

In 1979, the overthrow of the Somoza dynasty made Nicaragua a beacon of freedom among the dictatorships of Latin America. That early promise was dissipated in an armed conflict and ideological rigidities while the rest of Latin America followed its own, non-revolutionary route to democracy. Today Nicaragua has a second chance to alter the course of its violent history.

STRICTLY A JAPANESE AFFAIR

One investment rule has usually held good in recent years. The Tokyo stock market has always recovered faster than other world markets from any setback and has risen further when markets generally were rising. This makes the steep falls of the past few days at a time when other markets are generally stable still more striking. Tokyo seems to have developed a mind — and worries — of its own. Presumably this is not quite what Japanese politicians have in mind when they speak of Japan asserting its role in world affairs, but it is none the less instructive to see Wall Street and Tokyo ignoring each other.

The reasons for the fall have as much to do with politics as with economics. A further rise in Japanese interest rates has long been expected following the increases elsewhere and as a result of emerging worries about inflation. Growth in the money supply is higher than is desirable at 11 per cent, and prices continue to soar and the Shinto, or spring wage round, is expected to bring new pressures on costs.

A rise of perhaps three quarters of a percentage point, taking the Official Discount Rate to 5 per cent, was confidently predicted once the election was out of the way, but so far this has failed to occur. Last week the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Japan began openly to squabble — an unusual spectacle in Japan — with the Ministry of Finance arguing that it would be better to wait and see the effect of previous increases before raising interest rates again. An immediate reason to delay is the need to wait for the formal appointment of a finance minister in the new Government, but any interest rate rise may now be delayed well beyond that.

Whatever the outcome of the heavyweight wrestling between the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Japan, markets are coming to the conclusion that the result of the election has by

no means settled the country's political uncertainties. Although the incumbent Liberal Democratic Party won the contest convincingly, it is so faction-ridden that speculation of a political realignment continues. Meanwhile the absence of a majority in the Upper House reduces the Government's scope for manoeuvre, introducing a further note of uncertainty.

In this atmosphere equities have taken their cue from bonds which have fallen sharply in price since the new year. The volatility of market movements, as on Wall Street, has been exacerbated by programme trading generated by computerized investment models, leading to renewed calls for restrictions on such operations.

Viewed from New York or London it is tempting to see the fall as a long-needed correction in stock prices which have become highly inflated. Companies quoted in Tokyo are often valued at two or three times the market capitalization of similar companies elsewhere. Undoubtedly the dynamism of the Japanese economy rates a premium, but not one as big as that. Japanese investors themselves, however, do not appear to see things in this light, and their views are likely to maintain the price of Japanese stocks at well above those of stocks elsewhere until something causes them to change their mind.

From the point of view of other major markets, the gyrations in Tokyo seem to be strictly a Japanese affair. A rise in Japanese interest rates is already discounted and is unlikely to prompt matching action elsewhere. Despite inflationary worries the underlying performance of the Japanese economy remains strong with inflation currently 2.6 per cent and growth this year expected to be about 4½ per cent. For the most part Japan's problems are the problems of economic success.

Clash of wills on student loans

From the Academic Registrar of the City University

Sir, Students benefit from the public purse, in fairness, as graduates they should pay something back. The vice-chancellors agree, so why the damaging impasse with the Government on student loans? The root of the difficulty is that the Government seeks to chase the quarry of fairness right down to the level of the individual student, who is, as an individual, to take a loan and pay it back. It is just at this level that public administration is incapable of fairness. Look at social security, a byzantine system, creating new and complex unfairnesses.

Much better to recover a contribution to general public funds from graduates as a class, by whatever means is administratively cheapest and has fewest drawbacks in terms of deterring new students.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN SEVILLE,
Academic Registrar,
City University,
Northampton Square, EC1,
February 22.

From Sir Bryan Thwaites
Sir, Watchers of the university scene are becoming increasingly worried by what appear to be somewhat acerbic relations between universities and the DES. Two recent manifestations are particularly disturbing.

It was only last summer that Sir John Kingman, the most distinguished Vice-Chancellor of Bristol, himself a former chairman of the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC), said publicly that the question is "whether we can trust the Government" in the context of funding (report, July 28, 1989, earlier editions).

Now (February 13), in the different context of student grants, we read a letter from the Vice-Chancellor of Leeds, himself a former chairman of the University Grants Committee (UGC), writing in his capacity as chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVC) in such a way as to draw forth an immediate counter by the Secretary of State for Education and Science (February 14).

Government policies are not necessarily always congenial to universities, and vice versa. But it must be in the interest of both sides to work more effectively together than these, and other, examples suggest is the case at present.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN THWAITES,
Miltonborne,
Winchester, Hampshire.

From Miss M. K. Curtis
Sir, Philip Goodhart's article, "A pledge full of promise" (February 21), takes me back 70 years. My mother, a war widow of very limited means, used her savings to train a daughter as a university graduate teacher on condition she repaid the cost over a four-year period.

This arrangement made possible the same education for the second daughter, who in turn provided the wherewithal for the third daughter. The habit thus established resulted in a family of four, all graduates of the same university.

The youngest, not your writer, is now 71 years old. Yours faithfully,
M. K. CURTIS,
25 Church Road,
Hampton, Evesham,
Hereford and Worcester,
February 22.

Radio franchises

From Mrs Jocelyn Hay
Sir, There has been much criticism of the threadbare nature of the quality threshold to be met before television franchises are sold to the highest bidder, but virtually no reporting of the fact that radio franchises are to be auctioned without any quality hurdle at all.

The Broadcasting Bill proposes that up to 300 new commercial radio stations should be set up in Britain. Despite previous assurances, however, the Bill contains little that can prevent all three new national stations becoming non-stop pop stations if that is the most profitable way to go.

Is this how the Government proposes to widen choice for listeners or to add to the quality of life in Britain?

Yours faithfully,
JOCELYN HAY (Chairman,
The Voice of the Listener (Society)),
101 King's Drive,
Gravesend, Kent,
February 26.

Blasphemy at law

From his Honour A. King-Hamilton, QC

Sir, In his article, "Why religions should fight their own fight" (February 19), Professor Plant writes: "In the *Gay News* trial, the judge... stated that blasphemous libel applies only to the Christian religion and sacred subjects." This is not what I said.

At the outset of the trial defence counsel submitted that I had no jurisdiction to try the case because we had become a multi-religious society and there could not be a law of blasphemy which only protected one religion, i.e., Christianity.

Whilst accepting that we were a multi-religious society, I rejected the submission on the ground that

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Anomalies in the poll tax system

From Councillor Mrs Janet Todd
Sir, As the Conservative leader on a Labour-controlled council I am facing much criticism on the community charge. Oxford's community charge will be £472, practically the highest of the county districts; but the facts are plain to see from the available statistics.

Councils have gone over the top on expenditure for the coming year. Most of the worst offenders are Labour-controlled, or are "hung" councils where Labour are supported by the Democrats. Many Conservative district councils appear as high spenders simply because they have been saddled with high county precepts with which the county Conservatives disagree.

I believe that the principle of those who enjoy local government services paying for them in accordance with their means is perfectly fair, but the unexpected council spending has hit those in low-rated properties and caused the transitional arrangements to break down.

Unfortunately the most obvious victims of circumstances are the elderly, who have no salary coming in and are just above the income limit of savings and so will get no rebate. The rebate rules have been modelled on those governing housing benefit, which properly deals with a much more limited range of applicants and does not allow both husband and wife a savings threshold since there is only one rent involved. As both are now eligible to pay community charge the housing benefit model is inappropriate.

It is to be hoped that the secretary of state will not hesitate to "cap" extravagant authorities and that some adjustments can be made in the rebate scheme and the transitional arrangements. In that event the community charge will have a reasonable chance of gaining public acceptance, and the motives of those opposing it will be seen as an attempt to perpetuate an unfair and outmoded system. Yours faithfully,
JANET TODD,
Foxton Lodge,
Foxton Close, Oxford,
February 25.

From Mrs J. Graham-Jones
Sir, Your report, "Parishioners wake up to the cowshed poll tax"

Assessing clergy

From the Reverend Geoffrey Kirk
Sir, Your correspondent (February 20) would be less concerned about the introduction of "job appraisal techniques" in the Church of England if they experienced the reality.

In this diocese such assessments are undertaken in "episcopal areas" by an "episcopal team". A wide-ranging questionnaire is completed annually, and discussed with the allotted member of the "team" at a single meeting.

Since interviews last no longer than an hour, since the policy is that no two interviews in succession should be conducted by the same person; since the diocesan turnover in suffragan bishops and archdeacons is considerably more rapid than the turnover in parish clergy, and since the chances are

(February 23), gives welcome publicity to the financial plight of villagers, not only in Essex but in many places in England and Wales, brought about by the withdrawal of income for parish and community councils previously derived from the business rate.

However, the final sentence in your report, "Local people must now pay for local services", is most unfortunate since it implies that they have not done so in the past. On the contrary, in the past, under the rating system, and in the future, under the community charge, rural dwellers will not only pay for their local services but also for significant elements in the district council charge for facilities such as sports centres which most country people cannot use. Distance and lack of public transport at the right times prevent such use.

Village activities centre on the village hall — where there is one. Both capital money to build or renovate halls and revenue cash to maintain them come not only from local authority finance, which funds 50 per cent capital costs only, but largely from local fund-raising efforts, which bear very heavily on small communities.

Town dwellers, on the other hand, pay only through rates or poll tax for their local leisure amenities; villagers pay three times over. Yours faithfully,
J. GRAHAM-JONES,
Hendre,
9 St Anthony's Way,
Haverfordwest, Dyfed,
February 23.

From Mr Geoffrey Abbott
Sir, My widowed mother moved into a home near us in April, 1989, and her house was put on the market for sale. She died in October, 1989, and as her house remains unsold, the executors, are claiming a void on the house under the old rating system.

From April, 1990, her estate will be charged poll tax as though there are two people living in her house — a property tax after all.

A nice little bonus for the council! Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY ABBOTT,
Weld Farm,
Crofton, Cambridgeshire,
February 22.

that the only other encounter with either bishop or archdeacon in the relevant period will probably have been over the telephone or over a bridge roll in a windswept church hall after a confirmation, it can confidently be concluded that little or no actual harm is done.

As a matter of fact, since the arrangement ensures that the average clergyman sees his "area bishop" for only an hour once every three years, and since it means that his encounters with the diocesan bishop will of necessity be purely accidental and episodic, your correspondent may even come to see it as positively beneficial.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY KIRK,
St Stephen's Vicarage,
Cressingham Road, SE13,
February 20.

and in most cases have a fair ability.

I believe, however, that the service has been totally underfunded and that what it really lacks is "middle management". There is a very wide gap between the solicitor who prepares and presents the case in court and the main junior support staff in the office.

As soon as this gap can be funded and filled I believe the complaints will disappear. Meanwhile, it is about time we all started knowing the service and worked together to achieve the independence for which we strive for years. Yours faithfully,
A. R. OSTRIN (Senior Partner),
Yaffé Jackson Ostrin
(Solicitors),
81 Dale Street, Liverpool 2,
February 21.

Soviet reshuffle

From Mr Nicolas Mynett
Sir, Last summer, in a German wine shop, I came across bottles that rather amused me at the time as they were sold as "Vodka Gorbachev". On returning there last week I found that they had been replaced with a brand called "Vodka Pushkin".

What does this mean? I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
NICOLAS MYNETT,
Temple House, Stowe,
Buckingham,
February 20.

with much greater force, in the well known passage:

In an increasingly plural society... it is necessary not only to respect the differing religious beliefs, feelings and practices of all, but also to protect them from scurrility, vilification, ridicule and contempt.

In other words, from blasphemy. Professor Plant asks the rhetorical question, "What are to be the criteria for religious groups to qualify?" (for protection from blasphemy). I venture to repeat the suggestion I made in a recent seminar on blasphemy, viz., "a universally recognised, accepted and prevalent religion".

Yours sincerely,
ALAN KING-HAMILTON,
Royal Air Force Club,
128 Piccadilly, W1,
February 20.

Summer signs in the wintertime

From Mr Michael Skellern
Sir, I have just returned from a walk in the countryside on a warm sunny February afternoon. For a winter's day the walk was particularly unusual. The temperature reached the low sixties and enabled me to walk in shirt-sleeves.

I encountered three species of butterfly, including the beautiful brimstone. I had to take evasive action against a rather irate bumble bee and blow cigar smoke to keep away the insects. All I lacked was the sound of the cuckoo and the flight of the swallow.

You would expect me to have been cheered by such a pleasant walk on so warm a day. Not so. Instead I felt a strange unease as though something was wrong. This first brimstone may well be an indicator of a more sinister "fire and brimstone" to come.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SKELLERN,
White Coppice, 1 Dobbin Close,
Crowpitt Bishop,
Nottinghamshire,
February 23.

From Mrs Susie Maske
Sir, Yesterday (February 22) I picked nearly a pound of ripe and tasty "Gardener's Delight" tomatoes from my unheated greenhouse. These tomatoes had apparently thrived on total neglect throughout the winter.

Yours faithfully,
SUSIE MASKEW,
Garden Cottage, 48 Grange Road,
Lewes, East Sussex,
February 23.

From Mrs Heather Beagley
Sir, The Army (letter, February 23) is properly dressed. The tree outside my window is, like the hat of the soldier in combat gear, decorated with green leaves. Yours faithfully,
HEATHER BEAGLEY,
3 Sheen Common Drive,
Richmond, Surrey,
February 23.

Spotted frogs

From Mrs H. G. Boyce
Sir, Further to Captain Rutherford's letter (February 22), I would like to reassure anyone else who also heard the alarming news about the depletion of the frog population that we in the Special Needs Department of Sydenham Girls' School are also preserving the species.

We have 96 tadpoles about to become less simple to count once they have emerged from their apocryphal state. They are lovingly poked daily and will ultimately be released into a secret pond at the back of the school.

This is the third year that we have bred a particular type of frog in south London that eats bits of packed lunch.

Yours sincerely,
HARRIETTE BOYCE,
150 Woodward Road,
Dulwich, SE22,
February 22.

Unlikely skirl

From Mr Angus Stewart
Sir, It is quite in keeping that Signor Delladio (Mr Pincus's letter of February 15) should skirl his pipes in the hills above Trento, formerly part of the Austrian province of Tyrol. A time from act 3, scene 2, of Rossini's *William Tell* would be particularly apposite.

This melody was carried to the Crimea in 1855 by the band of General Lamorini's gallant Piedmontese expeditionary force. There it was arranged for the pipes by Pipe Major John MacLeod, of the 93rd Highlanders, as a retreat in 3/4 time. It was known as "The Green Hills of Tyrol". More than a century later it again became popular, this time as "A Scottish Soldier", sung by Andy Stewart.

There was another early Scottish connection. In Hapsburg-ruled Milan it had been politic to give William Tell a Highland rather than an Alpine setting, with Englishmen, not Austrians, as the villains of the piece, and to present it under the title of *Guiglielmo Tell*.

Yours faithfully,
ANGUS STEWART,
8 Ann Street, Edinburgh 4,
February 17.

From Mr R. R. Hodgson
Sir, A gentleman in full regalia practises the bagpipes on a regular basis, 100 yards from my office window in the centre of Bradford.

If it were not for the honour of the Service and the inherent difficulty of prosecuting oneself, he would have been strangled long since.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD HODGSON
(Assistant Branch Crown Prosecutor),
Crown Prosecution Service,
Bradford Branch Office,
2nd Floor, Broadway House,
9 Bank Street,
Bradford, West Yorkshire,
February 15.

From Mr Brian Packham
Sir, It would be unworthy of *The Times* not to recall its own piper who, in full Highland fig, piped the final edition off the stone at Printing House Square, Blackfriars, on the night of Friday, June 21, 1974, before we moved to Gray's Inn Road, en route to Wapping.

Our man piped a Lament; of that I am sure, because I was there. Yours faithfully,
BRIAN FIVEASH PACKHAM,
(Night News Editor (ret.)),
Windy Parc, Ayr Lane,
St Ives, Cornwall.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 26: The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon opened the new extension of the Castle Hotel, Windsor.

Mr Brian McGrath was in attendance.

Birthdays today

Mr Paddy Ashdown, MP, 49; Lord Bellaver and Steno, 53; the Marquess of Bute, 57; Viscount Cowdray, 80; Mr Lawrence Durrell, writer, 78; Vice-Admiral Sir Kaye Edden, 85; Sir Peter Emery, MP, 64; Sir Berkeley Gage, diplomat, 86; Viscount Head, 53; Mr Mervyn Jones, author, 68; Mr Michael Kaye, director, City of London Festival, 65; Sir Hugh Leggat, art dealer, 65; Mr Edward Lucie-Smith, poet and art critic, 57; Mr C. Maitland Smith, chairman, Sears, 57; Mr Ralph Nader, consumer protection pioneer, 56; Rabbi Julia Neuberger, 40; Mr Alberto Remondino, opera singer and concert pianist, 55; Sir Algernon Rumbold, diplomat, 84; Mr Gene Sarazen, golfer, 88; Mr M.M. Shearer, Lord Lieutenant of Shetland, 66; Miss Antoinette Shiley, prima ballerina, 51; Mr A.K. Sood, chief constable, Strathclyde, 59; Miss Elizabeth Taylor, actress, 58; Lord Young of Graffham, 58.

Luncheons

Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by Mr Sheriff and Mrs Paul Newall, attended the 75th anniversary luncheon of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators held yesterday at the Mansion House. Lord Goff of Chieveley, president, presided. The Lord Mayor and Mrs M. G. W. Fleissman, chairman, also spoke. Mr Justice Evans, Mr Justice Steyn and other members of the judiciary were among the guests.

Management Communications Association
The Rt Hon Bruce Millan, PC, European Commissioner for Regional Policy, was guest of honour at luncheon yesterday, given by the Management Communications Association, at the Cavalry and Guards Club. Mr David Miller, President of the Association, presided.

Reception

Prime Minister
The Prime Minister was host last night at a reception held at 10 Downing Street in honour of the Scout Association.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.W. Bunn and Miss E.E. Thring
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Peter Bunn, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, and Katherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Thring, of Markyate, Hertfordshire.

Mr C.L. Feather and Miss P.J. Baldwin
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr R.L. Feather, of Brook House, Leathley, Yorkshire, and Mrs A. de Caux Feather, of Low Missie Farm, Laverton, Yorkshire, and Philippa Jane, elder daughter of Mr Roger Baldwin, and the late Mrs Christine Baldwin, and stepdaughter of Clarissa Baldwin, of Little Venice, London.

Mr G.A. Fulbrook and Miss R.A. Bosworth
The engagement is announced between Guy Anthony, son of Mr R.H. Fulbrook, of Horsham, Sussex, and the late Mrs M. Fulbrook, and Rebecca Ann, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs P. Bosworth, of Abingdon, Oxford.

Mr K.A.W. Keogh and Miss C. Minett
The engagement is announced between Kevin, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A. Patrick Keogh, of Muswell Hill, London, and Claire, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs William Minett, of Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Mr G.R. Kink and Miss G.E. Wailes
The engagement is announced between Graham, only son of Mr and Mrs John Kink, of Sullington, Wiltshire, and Susan, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Eric Wailes, of Ide Hill, Kent.

Anniversaries
BIRTHS: James Robinson Flanché, dramatist, London, 1796; Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Portland, Maine, 1807; Dame Ellen Terry, actress, Coventry, 1847; Sir Hubert Parry, composer, Bournemouth, 1848; Rudolph Süssner, sculptor, Karlsruhe, Austria, 1861; Marino Marini, sculptor, Pisa, Italy, 1901; John Steinbeck, novelist, Salinas, California, 1902.

DEATHS: John Evelyn, diarist, Wotton, Surrey, 1706; John Arthurian, physician, mathematician and wit, London, 1735; Samuel Langley, aeronautics pioneer, Aiken, South Carolina, 1906; Adam Sedgwick, geologist, London, 1913; Ivan Pavlov, physiologist, Leningrad, 1936; Peter Behrens, architect, Berlin, 1940.

Church news
Canon Richard Lewis, Rural Dean of Dulwich, south London, and Foundation Chaplain of Dulwich College, has been appointed Dean of Wells Cathedral, it was announced yesterday.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will hold an Investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Permanent Master of the Shipwrights' Company, will attend a court luncheon at Ironmongers' Hall at 11.40 when Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will be installed as an Honorary Liverman.

Dinners

Company of Watermen and Lightermen
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and the Sheriffs and their ladies, was the principal guest and speaker at a dinner given by the Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames at Fishmongers' Hall last night. The Master, Mr J.G. Adams, presided, assisted by Mr H.G. Mack, Senior Warden, and Mr J.G.P. Crowden. Mr A.T. Woods and Mr P.D.T. Roberts, Junior Wardens, Mr Chay Blyth and Junior Warden Roberts also spoke.

Cardiff Business Club
Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for South Glamorgan, Mrs Susan E. Williams, the High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, Mr Christopher Pollard, the Deputy Mayor of Cardiff, Councilor Julie Thomas, the Chairman of South Glamorgan County Council, County Councillor Mrs Lorna Hughes and the Chairman of Cardiff Business Club, Mr Brian K. Thomas were present at a dinner held by the Club at the Royal Hotel, Cardiff, last night. The guest speaker was Lord Rees-Mogg, Chairman, Broadcasting Standards Council. Mr Idwal Symonds, Chairman of the Cardiff/Wales Limited, presided.

Institute of Purchasing and Supply
Mr Colin Southgate, Chairman and Chief Executive of Thom Ltd, was the guest of honour last night at the annual dinner of the Institute of Purchasing and Supply held at The Savoy Hotel. Mr Stuart Humby, President, was in the chair.

OBITUARIES

LT-GEN JAMES GAVIN

Airborne division chief, ambassador and businessman



Lieutenant-General James M. Gavin, renowned for his exploits in command of the US 82nd Airborne Division in NW Europe during the Second World War and a former US Ambassador to France under President Kennedy, died on February 23, aged 82.

Rising from private to major-general in 20 years, and at 37 the youngest US divisional commander of the war, Gavin was one of the most far-sighted (and at 37, the youngest) American divisional commanders of the Second World War.

Gavin never lost his faith in the need for strong conventional forces in the post-war East-West struggle and his career came to a premature end when he resigned in protest against Eisenhower's policy for the defence of Europe. This involved cutting US conventional force there in favour of the strategic deterrent. Subsequent events proved Gavin to be correct in his assessment of the relative merits of the two policies.

James Maurice Gavin was born on March 22, 1907, in Brooklyn. Orphaned as a baby, he enlisted in the Army and worked his way to the Military Academy at West Point. He early interested himself in Army flying and showed great promise and, after wide experience at home and abroad, was appointed as an instructor in tactics at West Point, in 1940, just after the Fall of France.

In 1942 Gavin took command of 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, and was in the spearhead of the invasion of Sicily on July 9, 1943. Soon after, on September 14, the regiment dropped into the Salerno bridgehead to reinforce the American positions there.

During the preparations for the invasion of Normandy,

Gavin was adviser to the Supreme Commander, General Eisenhower, on airborne matters. Gavin had always believed that the use of airborne troops should be a compromise between very deep penetration (when such lightly armed soldiers would be too vulnerable to tanks) and close assault, for example on the actual Normandy beaches. The D-Day airborne landings were, therefore, very much in accord with his own ideas, and he jumped with the 82nd Airborne Division on June 6, 1944.

But the wisdom of withdrawing slightly in order to attack more effectively prevailed. Before the war ended, the 82nd had become a legend — "the greatest division in the world today" as General Dempsey put it. And its commander, "Jumping Jim Gavin," as he was known, had become famous for his intrepidity in action. He won numerous decorations including the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Distinguished Service Order, Legion of Honour and Croix de Guerre.

In 1949 Gavin went to the Secretary of Defence's office in Washington as Army member of the Weapons Systems Evaluation Group, the first of

his important posts in the Research and Development field.

By 1955 he had become Chief of Research and Development, but soon found that he was in fundamental disagreement with the government's defence policy. The then Defence Secretary had formulated "New Look" policy which relied on strategic retaliatory power at the expense of conventional forces. This would have the effect of reducing the Army's strength and slow down the development of tactical weapons and tactical mobility. If the Army were weakened in this way, Gavin argued, it would be incapable of fighting a limited war which he believed was far more likely than a strategic nuclear one. His views did not prevail and in 1958 he retired from the Army.

After his resignation *War and Peace in the Space Age* appeared, setting out his views on how the United States should organize its armed forces. He maintained that to be ready for limited wars anywhere, it was essential that mobility and adaptability were never lost sight of. One man whose notice it did not escape was the then Senator for Massachusetts, John F. Kennedy.

HENRY FAIRLIE

A sharp eye on the political scene, here and in America

Henry Fairlie, the author and journalist, and one of the most acute political commentators of his generation, died on February 25 in hospital in Washington. He was 66.

Among the achievements with which he is credited is the coining of the term *The Establishment*, in an article in the 1950s. Certainly he gave it wide currency thereafter.

Fairlie wrote for a variety of newspapers during his career, ranging from the *Daily Mail* and *Sunday Express* to *The Times*, which he first joined in 1950. Though he was only 26 at the time of his arrival at *The Times* it was clear, even through the anonymity of the leader columns where he made his contribution, that a fresh mind was at work, one which was very much at home among the labyrinthine workings of the political machine.

Besides his acuity on the home front, Fairlie also made a speciality of America, where he spent much time from the 1960s onwards. His book

which summed up this experience, *The Spoiled Child of the Western World* (1976), was an interesting example of a classical European mind trying to come to terms with a civilization which, while it shared a common language, was nevertheless totally different from our own.

His relationship with America was to remain a love-hate one. He deplored the materialism of the consumer society, while admiring the achievements of the founding fathers of the Republic and continuing to find their virtues in quiet corners of small town America.

In any event America was kind to him: when he more or less fled there from Britain in the 1960s, haunted by debt, America gave him a living in the form of regular commissions from the *New Republic*. Indeed, his last article for it was published in the issue before his death.

Fairlie was born in London on January 13, 1924. He went to Highgate School and Cor-

pus Christi College, Oxford, where he read modern history. He began his journalistic life in 1945 in the Parliamentary lobby for the *Manchester Evening News*, before proceeding to *The Observer* and thence to *The Times*.

After four years at *The Times* he went to the *Spectator* where he wrote a political column first under the name "The Trimmer" and then under his own by-line. This set the seal on a reputation which was already high.

After a couple of years at the *Spectator*, Fairlie went freelance, writing a good deal for the *Daily Mail*. But his financial affairs were always hot and cold, and in the end, pursued by creditors and a libel suit for some remarks he had made on television, he sought refuge in the United States.

But before he did so he produced a remarkable book, *The Life of Politics*, in which he set forth what amounted to his political credo. It took issue with what was regarded

as critical orthodoxy in the late 1960s — namely that Parliament had become a cypher, power was concentrated in the hands of the bureaucracy, and that all a Prime Minister had to do was to placate the bureaucrats, as being the source of his own power.

Fairlie defended the British political system from these generally accepted charges, and reiterated his faith in Parliament and its members.

In America, besides *The Spoiled Child*, he also wrote *The Kennedy Promise*, which took JFK's administration to task for its grandiose aims. In 1981 he re-established his links with *The Times*, contributing a column for a year or so. But in the end, it was to be America which kept body and soul together.

In an anthology entitled *The Establishment*, whose appearance in the 1950s, as it were, "officially" ensnared his courage, Fairlie contributed an essay on the BBC.

Mr JUSTICE McNEILL

Weighing up the evidence on the merits of the case



Mr Justice McNeill was found dead early yesterday at the official judges' residence for Swansea Crown Court. He was 67. South Wales Police said there were no suspicious circumstances. He had been a High Court Judge, in the Queen's Bench Division, since 1979, when he was knighted.

At a time when a new emphasis on retribution had emerged in the debate about criminal justice and sentencing practices have been put under more critical scrutiny, judges have faced increasing outside pressures. While some critics saw in some of his sentences an unnecessary leniency, McNeill, like all judges, decided as he thought best on the basis of the facts before the court.

He once exchanged his wig and robes for an ordinary suit to hear evidence from a 15-year-old girl in a rape case. He asked prosecuting and defence counsel to dress equally informally and requested court officials to find a less imposing room for the hearing.

But in another rape case he lifted reporting restrictions at the request of a local newspaper editor, to prevent what he called a substantial and unreasonable restriction on the reporting of the trial.

Born on June 6, 1922, David Bruce McNeill was educated at Rydal School and Merton College, Oxford. Commissioned into the Reconnaissance Corps in 1943, he served in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Germany.

McNeill was called to the Bar in 1947 and the first years of his career, from 1948 to 1958, were spent as a lecturer in law at Liverpool University; he never lost his deep interest in Merseyside and concern for its welfare.

He became a QC in 1966 and Recorder of Blackburn from 1969 to 1971 then a Recorder of the Crown Court from 1972 to 1978. He was Leader of the Northern Circuit from 1974 to 1978 and Presiding Judge from 1980 to 1984. As a Circuit Leader he gave encouragement particularly to younger members of the Bar. From 1981 he was a member of the Restrictive Practices Council.

McNeill served as a mem-

ber of the Bar Council from 1968 to 1972 and the Senate of the Inns of Court and the Bar from 1975 to 1981, being first Vice-Chairman and then Chairman.

He steered the Bar through a period when there was a widespread official examination of the practices of the legal profession. He became a Bench of Lincoln's Inn in 1974.

More than once, McNeill was at the centre of controversy over accusations that he had passed a lenient sentence.

In 1984 MPs criticised him for being too soft on a man who raped a 19-year-old girl three times after murdering her mother, father and brother. He failed the rapist for life with a recommendation that he serve at least 18 years.

Three years later, McNeill faced more criticism for jailing a man for eight years after he admitted raping a 20-year-old secretary on Christmas Day.

In August last year, he was again criticised by MPs for failing to impose a prison sentence on a member of a gang of youths who terrorized passengers on the London Underground and robbed one of £1,500.

Yet McNeill also served as a member of the Parole Board from 1986, which requires sensitive judgement and appreciation of potential risk to the public in considering whether or not parole should be granted.

McNeill is survived by his wife, son and three daughters.

FRANK ROSS

Frank Ross, the American film producer whose credits included the Biblical epic *The Robe*, has died aged 83.

A long-cherished project that helped Richard Burton on his Hollywood career, *The Robe* (1953) was the first film in the wide screen Cinemascope process. Ross also produced its sequel, *Demetrius and the Gladiators*. In 1981 he shared a special Academy Award with the director Mervyn LeRoy for *The House I Live In*, a short film promoting racial tolerance which featured Frank Sinatra.

Ross worked in the construction industry before entering films as an actor in 1929. Among the actresses he appeared with was Jean Ar-

thur, who became his first wife.

He began producing at the Hal Roach studios, and in 1939 he was associate producer on *Of Mice and Men*, a highly-praised version of the famous John Steinbeck novel.

Turning independent, he produced two films starring Jean Arthur, *The Devil and Miss Jones* and *A Lady Takes a Chance*. Their marriage was dissolved in 1949.

With his second wife, the actress Joan Caulfield, Ross produced *The Lady Says No*, *The Rain of Repentance* and a short-lived television series, *Sally*.

His other films included the Burt Lancaster swashbuckler, *The Flame and the Arrow*.

Astronomy

The sky at night in March

By Michael J. Hendrie
Astronomy Correspondent

Mercury is a morning star before superior conjunction on the 20th when it moves into the evening sky setting an hour and a half after the Sun by the 31st, at -1.7 magnitude.

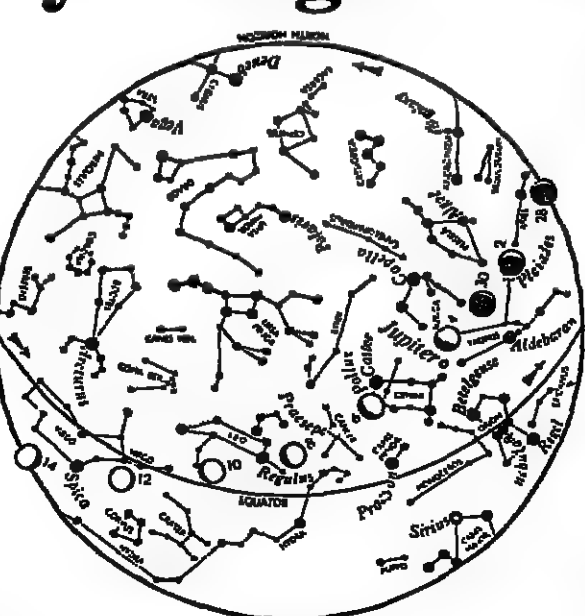
Venus is a morning star but it remains rather low in the dawn sky rising barely two hours before the Sun throughout the month. A brilliant -4.4 magnitude, it reaches maximum western elongation from the Sun (46°) on the 30th. The waning crescent Moon passes 2 deg south of Venus on the morning of the 23rd.

Mars is in Capricornus brightening slowly to 1.0 magnitude. Its slow motion relative to the stars keeps it low in the south-eastern sky throughout March, never rising more than two hours before the Sun. The Moon will be to the east of Mars on the morning of the 23rd.

Jupiter moves slowly eastwards through Gemini fading from -2.4 to -2.2 and setting by 02h on the 31st. The Moon passes the star on the night of 4th/5th.

Saturn is in Sagittarius at 0.6 magnitude rising about 05h on the 1st and by 03h on the 31st. The Moon passes to the south of the 21st.

Uranus rises by 02h 30m on the 31st but at 5.7 magnitude needs optical aid. The Moon passes very close to the bright red star Antares in the constellation of Scorpius about midnight on the night of 17th/18th.



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latter half of March. The Sun is at the top, and the Moon is shown in its various phases. Planets are indicated by symbols: Mercury (☿), Venus (♀), Earth (♁), Mars (♂), Jupiter (♃), Saturn (♄), Uranus (♅), and Neptune (♆). The diagram is a circular map of the sky with constellations labeled.

Comet Austin is at present visible in binoculars to observers in the southern hemisphere, but is expected to brighten as it moves northwards to cross the equator on March 21, remaining rather close to the Sun until towards the end of April, when it could well be a bright naked eye object in the north-eastern sky before dawn, moving into the southern sky during May.

The prediction of the brightening of comets is notoriously difficult, even when the comet has been observed previously as in the case of Halley's Comet for example. Those "short-period" comets which complete one circuit of their orbit around the Sun in under 200 years and which have been seen more than once, at least provide a guide as to how

comets can be expected to behave. Comets being seen for the first time, such as comet Austin, have no known history, so any prediction must be based solely on a comparison with other past comets, and this is necessarily unreliable.

By the time of the April night sky notes it may be possible to make a better estimate of its likely brightness.

However, on the assumption that it brightens like some previous comets it could just be visible in the last few days of March, low in the west after sunset. By the time the light fades completely in the western sky the comet will have set, but if bright enough could be seen low down in the strong twilight.

On the evening of the 28th the comet will be about 10 deg below the two-day-old thin crescent Moon. The prospects of seeing it then are not very good but worth looking for if the Moon can be seen.

Newly discovered comets are generally named after their discoverers and up to three independent names can be used, as in the recent Okazaki-Levy-Rudenko 1989r for example. The 1989r is a provisional designation signifying the year of discovery, the recovery in the case of a known comet and the order in that year, starting with the letter a.

SCIENCE REPORT

Touch of baroque in genetic world

Trypanosomes are single-celled organisms responsible for sleeping sickness, among other malaises. But they have been giving pause for thought in more than just public health circles by virtue of their unusual genetic antics.

The information to make proteins to meet organisms' needs is archived in the genes, bulky structures made from DNA. But before the proteins can be created, the genetic information has to be transcribed into small, handy molecules of messenger RNA (mRNA).

All this had been thought of as academic until recently. But cracks appeared in this "central dogma" of molecular biology in 1986, when researchers found that a protein in the microbe *Trypanosoma brucei* contained more information than was specified in its gene. More than that, the protein could not function without this information.

Where was this extra information coming from, if not the gene? It looked as though the mRNA had been "edited" somewhere between gene and protein. But if this were true, the editor's identity was a mystery.

The trypanosomes did not seem to have copies of the edited genetic sequences for use as a pattern or template, but the consistency of the editing ruled out any kind of cellular improvisation. To make matters worse, more and more cases of this RNA editing turned up, to the general perplexity (science reports 21 May, 1988; 20 October, 1989).

used as templates. Simpson and colleagues looked for something a bit smaller — templates for just those bits of genes that were edited, rather than the whole genes.

A computer search of the genetic sequence of the trypanosome *Leishmania tarentolae*, followed by laboratory experiments turned up seven mini-genes that produced RNA (called guide or gRNA) molecules that could act as templates for special editing enzymes at work doctoring the mRNA.

In a way, the gene that produces the mated mRNA, and the mini-gene that makes the accompanying gRNA can be thought of as two distinct halves of an operationally single gene. The idea of physically split genes is not new; the novelty, says the researchers, lies in the fact that the product of one half of the gene (the gRNA template) is used to produce the other half of the gene (the mRNA) without which it would be unusable.

This baroque arrangement begs the question of why it should have developed at all. A clue comes from the trypanosome's mode of life: it spends much of its life in the blood of its host, where it has to evade the host's immune system. The researchers suggest that the editing process is a way of getting the most from their genes.

Henry Gee

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THE ARTS

A master spy's last debriefing

TELEVISION
Sheridan Morley

By spreading a certain amount of subtle disinformation to television viewers, and with a secrecy that might have been the envy of the pre-glasnost KGB itself, Tom Mangold managed to keep last night's BBC 1 *Panorama* subject to himself and his crew until air-time.

What he had was the first film of Colonel Oleg Gordievsky, whose story is also being told in *The Times* this week. He is the double agent who risked his life to spy for the West and has only just completed his debriefing over here, having escaped from Moscow with the help of MI6.

Very soon, of course, such men are going to seem as antiquated as steam-engine drivers, and Mangold's fascination with the mechanics of espionage will itself appear an antique eccentricity. But for now there are still certain questions to be answered: no, according to Gordievsky, Hugh Gaitskell was not murdered by the KGB and Sir Roger Hollis was not a double agent.

On the other hand several others were, and Gordievsky found the job of espionage and treachery no more troublesome than most. The KGB was his family business, and although mother disapproved it seemed to him quite fun at first, at any rate until the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia, when he decided that Communism was not all it had been cracked up to be around the Moscow tower blocks of his youth.

In a Copenhagen badminton court four years later, Gordievsky was approached by MI6 and turned double-agent, a decision which led to his arrest and then to his escape from Moscow before he had to flee, leaving a beloved wife and children behind.

The KGB set Kim Philby on his case, while in England it was Gordievsky who helped trap the MI6 spy Michael Bettany, now serving a 20-year prison sentence. An amiably bearded man who has taken up gardening and talking to reporters like Mangold in seaside cafes worthy of Graham Greene novels, Gordievsky seems already to belong to the lost world of John Le Carré and spies who came in from a cold that has suddenly turned unseasonably warm in the Gorbachev spring. I suspect that his memoirs will not sell as well as *Spycatcher*.

On Channel 4, a strong new documentary series called *Cutting Edge* told the terrifying story of a mental asylum on the Greek island of Laros where 1,100 inmates are watched over by two psychiatrists. The Greek government has turned its back on them, as have their own families, and as a result the patients have had to build lives which will be familiar to the survivors of concentration camps but, happily, to precious few others.

TOMORROW
Edward Bond, Britain's most controversial dramatist

Pied Piper of children's tales

With five of his children's books in the top-ten best-selling list and his twentieth book coming out in April, Roald Dahl tells Joseph Connolly the secrets of his success



Roald Dahl reads *The BFG* to a group of eager fans: "his stories are excellent, and children simply love them — sometimes literally — to pieces"

that I was for very many years an adult writer — it was a very severe apprenticeship for the business of writing real stories for children. A proper apprenticeship, in my opinion."

Sales and enthusiasm have been further boosted recently by the video releases of *Willie Wonka* and the *Chocolate Factory* and *Danny, Champion of the World*, but Dahl remains a devoted advocate of the printed word. "I sort of quite liked the *Danny* film," he said, "not quite convincing either of us, but they put in all these bits at the end about housing estates. Eight-year-olds

care nothing for housing estates." He admits to liking young Sam Irons in the title role, while finding his father, Jeremy, an extremely arrogant man. However, Dahl has nothing but scorn for the film of his book *The Witches*, to be released later this year. "It was made by that Jim Henson person,

and it is utterly appalling. They're going completely for the adult market. I wanted them to remove my name from the credits, but they wouldn't. I do want to know, however, that I wouldn't allow a child to see it, let alone encourage one to do so."

He is now determined never to sell film rights again, and remains doubtful of anyone's ability to convey children's books to the screen — with the notable exception of *Mary Poppins* and *The Wizard of Oz*, both of which Dahl holds dear.

"So I just concentrate on books. Of course I am aware of this monopoly thing. A school inspector up north recently surveyed the libraries and came to the conclusion that there was 'too much Dahl'. But the children didn't think so. They are different: we don't read books again and again and again, but for children that's half the fun. That's why they must read first-rate books, and of course I wish there were more writers serving them."

By Dahl's definition, a first-rate children's book is not one that is briefly fashionable or even of its time, but simply one that endures generations — and in the history of literature he sees evidence that far fewer writers can achieve this for children than for adults.

"I will sort of prove it to you," he said. "If I asked you to name a hundred classic adult novels, you could probably whistle through it — Tolstoy, Balzac and so on; but if I asked you to name just 20 for children, you'd say, well, *The Secret Garden*, *The Wind in the Willows* (which should be hugely cut), *Alice*, maybe — although it is not for children; no eight-year-old gets anything out of *Alice* — and you'd probably dry up at about number 10."

But it is evident that no self-respecting child would be remotely phased by the challenge: Roald Dahl already accounts for 19, and with the April publication of *Esio Trax* (a tale of true love and 140 tortoises) the score will be complete.

Bring on the strings

When Stravinsky talked about "the multisonorous euphony of strings" he was probably reckoning on having more than 15 players, but the grander passages of his *Apollo*, like the second "Variation d'Apollo", made quite a splendid effect with this number in a comparatively small space. One heard more of the harmony than in most orchestral performances, while there was still enough of a tutti for Chris Tombling's neat solo violin playing to stand out.

The problems came more in the faster sections, and especially in the coda to the "Pas de deux", where the conductor, Scott Struman, belied his reputation as a jazzman.

The other big work on the programme, in terms of duration, was the *Trullio* for oboe and strings by Antal Dorati, one of the conductor's last creative works. This, too, would probably have benefited from a string ensemble three times larger, though it was hard to gripe about that when the piece would also have benefited from being three times shorter. At least there was plenty of opportu-

CONCERTS
Paul Griffiths
Opus 20/Stroman
Purcell Room

nity to admire the strength, commitment and vividness of Andrew Knight's solo playing, whether in the opening pastoral for oboe d'amore, the central hurly-burly for standard oboe or the final dirge for cor anglais.

The strings of Opus 20 were joined by other visitors in a brand-new piece, Bennett Hogg's *It's Raining*, in which four percussionists kept up a faintly jazz-style "till ready" pattern beneath abrupt, irregularly repetitive music — moving a little like an under-oiled machine.

The composer's biography, speaking of his dissatisfaction with "new music" in general and his turn to ethnic music and jazz, had suggested something much more aggressive than this eight-minute essay, whose best idea came at the end: a disappearing trick in the form of a muted downward glissando for the strings.

But the best thing in the concert as a whole came at the start, when Ruggles's *Portals* made such a challenging noise.

A worthy tribute

On a mid-July evening in 1974 Garrett Drogheda said goodbye to the Royal Opera House at a concert in his honour. For 16 years he had been chairman, lynch-eyed in his attention to every detail, raising its status season by season to a proper international level. Last night Covent Garden said farewell to him and his wife, Joan; they died within days of one another at Christmas.

There were echoes of that July night. *Traviata* was heard again (with Anna Tomowa-Sintow and Arthur Davies in the Brindisi). So, more crucially, was the closing scene of *Der Rosenkavalier*, conducted then, as now, by Sir Georg Solti.

Rosenkavalier was the first opera in which he was heard at Covent Garden and on the strength of it he became first choice as next music director. Drogheda was the man entrusted to persuade Solti to take the job and, once he had accepted, took on the even more arduous task of making him stay on in the face of considerable opposition from some London critics. It is many years since Solti

John Higgins
Drogheda Memorial
Concert
Covent Garden

needed such persuasion. With Felicity Lott in radiant form in the title role, *Rosenkavalier* sounded as though it had been at Covent Garden for ever. And the Marcelline's half-regretful handling over to a new generation was a point not missed.

Before that, Murray Perahia, in homage to Joan Drogheda, who was a professional pianist in her own right and stern critic of all matters musical at the Garden, had given a limpid, almost feather-weight interpretation of Mozart's *Piano Concerto*, K595.

Solti, in charge of the whole evening, let the orchestra, on stage for once in its life, show off a little. Ballet was represented by the *Roméo and Juliet Suite*. In Kenneth MacMillan's choreography, this was one of the greatest successes of the Drogheda years.

But Solti and Prokofiev? Not so far fetched — it was whispered that he once conducted the ballet for the de Basil company.

Playing to extremes

This, another pleasantly informal workshop-cum-concert in Music Projects/London's series "New Images of Sound", was given in uncomfortable looking surroundings, on a dramatically skewed white platform that the theatre's current occupants are using to represent a glacier. This limited space meant that, in the three pieces which called for a piano, we had to put up with an electronic imitation which sounded thoroughly awful.

Despite such difficulties (for which the conductor, Richard Bernas, did offer gracious apologies), the concert was excellently played and contained some fine music. There were two more of Wolfgang Rihm's series *Chiffres*: each a rugged, fragmented, yet eloquent structure. The first, scored for a small, predominantly low group, is particularly gritty, with the piano making stark, pugna contributions at either end of the keyboard. The sixth, which we heard first, is perhaps less angular and dark, with the horn providing the chief means of tonal extravagance. To complement such un-

Stephen Pettitt
Music Projects/
London/Bernas
Almeida Theatre

compromisingly Germanic material there were two British pieces. Robert Saxton's *Sentinel of the Rainbow*, part of a trilogy, is a typically extended and eloquent piece, richly textured but unfailingly lucid, with obvious gestures — such as the quasi-plainsong chimes of crotales and piano, to orientate the listener. One did feel that, perhaps in his desire to explore all musical possibilities, Saxton over-extends his piece. But this may have been because of a performance that, for all its fine qualities, did not quite capture the span of the work. It may also well be that one's own familiarity with the work is insufficient.

This caveat did not apply to Colin Matthews's *Two-Part Invention*, commissioned by Music Projects/London in 1988. The music is so concentrated, tough and purposeful (with the challenging solo cello part dispatched brilliantly by Justin Pearson) that a first-time listener cannot fail to be pulled along by it. Richard Bernas also directed a marvelously dedicated reading.

John Higgins talks to Götz Friedrich, whose staging of *Elektra* opens at Covent Garden on Saturday

Back at the start of the Eighties, Götz Friedrich made a film of Richard Strauss's one act opera *Elektra*. It was intended, in part, as a homage to the great conductor Karl Böhm, friend and interpreter of Strauss and one of the last musical links with the composer. Böhm, alas, died just before filming was completed, but there, on sound and on vision, was his version of *Elektra*, together with appearances by the old guard of German singers — Beirer, Greindl, Böhm among them. Leonie Rysaneck, a notable Chrysothemis in her time, was the *Elektra*, a role she had never sung on stage.

With this experience behind him it seemed strange that Friedrich had never directed *Elektra* in the opera house before this Saturday's production at Covent Garden, with Eva Marton in the title part and Sir Georg Solti conducting. During a career spanning over 30 years in the opera house Götz Friedrich had, after all, staged five or six different *Salomés*. So why no *Elektra*?

"The answer to that is very simple and comes in one word: sound. I have seen any number of *Elektras* but I haven't heard them. Hofmannsthal's words have been obliterated by the orchestra, which should have over 100 players. In the film studios you have engineers to help; in the opera house you do not."

"So when Georg [Solti] invited me to stage *Elektra* my first reaction was how to get over the sound problem. We decided that it could only be done through the set. So at Covent Garden we have devised 'Eine Röhre' — a tube or tunnel — running across the stage, which will both suggest the claustrophobic life led by Klytemnestra and her two daughters, and project the voices out across the auditorium."

This marks something of a change in Friedrich's attitude to staging opera. Previously he put much store by having a "Spielraum", a playable space, for his singers. Never before, he agrees, has he used so little of the stage as

From the wall of terror to the tunnel of hate

in *Elektra*. But even more interesting is his choice of designer, Hans Schavermach, whose contemporary view of Gluck's *Oresteia* arrested the eye when the Komische Oper came to London last summer.

It is less than a year since Schavermach designed another *Elektra*, for the Vienna State Opera last summer, which had the stage dominated by the lower half of an enormous jackbooted figure. Harry Kupfer directed that one, and Kupfer and Friedrich grew up together under the tutelage of the late Walter Felsenstein at East Berlin's Komische Oper. Were there any worries about similarities?

"No, except in a totally contrary sense. Obviously my conception was going to be quite different to Harry's. [The Kupfer *Elektra* had its genesis in a co-production for the Welsh National Opera over 10 years ago.] I wanted absolute simplicity, which after all is part of

the spirit of the ancient world. And I wanted a space which did not provoke the question of whether *Elektra* is a classical or a modern work. The same with the costumes: they can move between 20 and 2,000 years ago. One of the great things about opera is that it can leap through the centuries."

"*Elektra* is a series of encounters, and the greatest of these is between *Elektra* and *Orestes*. The Recognition Scene is one of the most famous and most discussed encounters in world literature. *Orestes* gradually realizes that this figure before him — dirty, mad and charming — is his sister. When he is called on to kill his mother *Orestes* does this through a sense of duty, not because of any brotherly love towards *Elektra*. He has to freeze his feelings."

Covent Garden's *Elektra* is Eva Marton, as she was in Vienna. But the interpretation again is likely to be quite different. Friedrich sees her as a terrorist and points out

that a number of the most successful present-day terrorists come from the *haute bourgeoisie*. But there will be no parallels with the Rote Armee.

There is the wild and pig-headed side, but there is too the soft, sensitive and highly intelligent *Elektra*. She has the wit, Friedrich believes, to hit straight at the most sensitive point in her mother, Klytemnestra: the desire for reconciliation. Germany has had a marvellous postwar tradition in that gaudy role with the likes of Marika Rokk, Anny Schlemm and most recently Brigitte Fassbänder. But Götz Friedrich has ignored this and gone instead for the Yugoslav mezzo Marjana Lipovsek. We may see a rather different type of Klytemnestra.

Götz Friedrich rations himself to two productions a year outside his own house, West Berlin's Deutsche Oper, where he has been General Director since 1981. His



Friedrich: major artistic role in unified Germany?

contract there runs until 1996, by which time the theatre will have had about 30 Friedrich productions, which he reckons "will be about enough".

The Deutsche Oper has always been the focus of a certain amount of public attention and never more so than now. Friedrich is in a special and quite difficult position, as a man who was born in East Germany, won his spurs in that country at the Komische Oper and then left for the West in 1972, ending up by running a West German opera house. His first gesture to the events of November 9 was to put on, only three days after the lifting of travel restrictions between East and West Berlin, a matinee of *Die Zauberflöte* free to anyone who wanted to cross the border to see it.

He adds: "There is a certain irony in the fact that the Deutsche Oper reopened the very year that the Wall went up. But I never accepted the border in its artificial concrete form, except that it prevented me from returning to the DDR. When I left in 1972 my name was removed from posters at the Komische Oper. My first return was a month ago when I discussed with my old colleagues the future of opera in Berlin. It could be fantastic — what other city has three major houses?"

It is likely that Friedrich's special position will give him a major role in the artistic reunification of Germany. There will be no exchange of productions between the three houses: it is agreed that it is the audiences which should be moved once some method has been found of making West Berlin prices affordable in the East. But singers, to say nothing of producers, can become mobile once again.

We are very close to signing an agreement whereby, in 1993, Harry Kupfer comes for a production at the Deutsche Oper and I do the same at the Komische Oper. I regard that not as a dream but as a restoration of normality."

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Loo

One name leads the field — and everywhere else — in clothes for an active life.

Amanda Atha reports

A first-rate children's book is not one that is briefly fashionable or even of its time, but simply one that endures generations — and in the history of literature he sees evidence that far fewer writers can achieve this for children than for adults.

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FASHION

Looks great outdoors

One name leads the field — and everywhere else — in clothes for an active life.

Amanda Atha reports

Are you a Patagonia? Try this simple quiz. You are sitting in a hut half-way up Mount Everest. There is a blizzard howling outside and weather reports indicate you may be trapped for a week. There is a stove, 10 bunks, 12 people of indeterminate sex and you. Do you:

- Climb into your bunk and fall asleep — it's been a long, hard day?
- Head, Scott-like, for the wide open spaces?
- Whip out your Pez and run off a couple of rolls of film of your boyfriend lying on his bunk wearing his super-shelled Capilene jacket, Hydrofil socks, brush-stroke T-shirt and jeans in the hope of having a photograph chosen for the next Patagonia catalogue?

If you selected the last option, congratulations — the kingdom of Patagonia is yours. If not, read on.

Patagonia provides outdoor clothing for skiers, yachtsmen and mountaineers. Among its products is a washable, fleecy material called Synchilla, widely copied but still regarded as the best fleece for warmth and dryness in difficult conditions.

Patagonia has won a cult following in the United States, Canada, and wherever outdoor types are gathered together. It has succeeded because the clothes not only look good, but actually work.

At the heart of the cult is the company's catalogue, available from Patagonia stockists. The clothes featured — storm jackets, underclothing, outer

"shells", fleeces, cardigans and fishing gear — do not alter much from year to year, give or take a new line in pants with an extra-wide crotch or an improvement in a garment's breathing qualities. (Who cares about fashion when these people test-wash

their pet fabric "in a yak watering bucket with Chinese soap so strong it faded the freckles on our hands and mangled our sweatpants"?)

The photographs, however, are tiny masterpieces. They are chosen from hundreds sent to the company by people in "Patagonian" situations. Here is a picture of the company's founder standing silent upon a peak in Aconcagua, Argentina, for example; and here, mountaineer Ad van der Horst "in a climber's hut in Spain".

The copy is a bit special, too: "We've often said about our Baggies: 'Put 'em on in May, take 'em off in September.' Baggies wearers take these words to heart... Baggies have full-cut legs for unrestricted motion, an elasticized mesh inner brief and two generous on-seam pockets with 'superdriers' — triangles of nylon mesh that allow water and sand to drain out when the shorts are worn for swimming and fishing..."

The company emanates from California, and is the brainchild of Yvon Chouinard, a French-Canadian mountaineer who found he could not buy the equipment he wanted for his sport, so began making his own in his parents' backyard.

That was 33 years ago. Since then Chouinard's efforts have led to a multinational company with a \$90 million (£53 million) turnover, and "bicycle-less offices to encourage open communication, on-site

day care, a subsidized lunch programme (some of the greatest ideas are seasoned by good food), a preference for staff meetings about endangered grizzly bears over the hopelessly astute "professional seminar".

When I tried to talk to Chouinard last week, an agitated Patagonia representative told me he was "somewhere in South America on a fishing and testing trip and out of communication". When would he be back? Well, possibly the weekend, because

he was due to go to an international ski trade fair in Munich on Thursday, but with Chouinard you never knew. That is part of the Patagonia philosophy — set off into the blue and return when the spirit moves you.

Luckily, it moved him a few days later and I caught him on the telephone in Canada. The question of his business philosophy was, he said, "a tough one", but his basic reason for still being in business was to "maximize profit to give the maximum to the

environment". For several years Patagonia has given 10 per cent of its US and Canadian pretax profits to environmental organizations, and is planning to do the same "officially" in Europe. "It has become fashionable now and lots of companies are doing it as a marketing ploy," Chouinard says.

"I think it is a good idea. I don't think it will go away — once people get into the habit of dipping into their pockets, they'll go right on."

● Liz Smith is on holiday

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Have music, will travel: the Invicta Jollino for the stereo

Flying fur on the slopes again

Sharon Campbell, buyer for Snow & Rock, a chain of ski shops which is consistently on the ball with snow fashion, comments on what's coming up next season: "It is boring really. The only distinctly new thing is fleece... fleece is one of the strongest influences in ski fashion this year. Degre [the company of the skier and mountaineer, Patrick Vallencant, who died last year in a mountain accident] has whole pieces which zip in and out — interactive layering, it's called. There are strong colours about, greens, purples... orange, I'm sorry to say, is showing its little face, though mostly in trimmings. And then of course there is the wonderful new Solomoon ski, which they've been developing for the last few years. It's bright orange and black. Fashion has been influenced by the European market which, because European resorts have had such a bad season, is designing clothes which are made for the street as well as for skiing.

"Other materials: leather, the natural 'green' look (green as in conservation), fake fur, and quite a lot of real fur trimmings. In France it doesn't seem to bother them, and the Scandinavians say: 'The animals are specially bred for their fur and they are not endangered species', and if you question them further they say 'Well, do you eat meat?'"

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● SPORT 36-40

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.9860 (-0.0105)

W German mark
2.8637 (+0.0002)

Exchange index
90.1 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1776.1 (+13.8)

FT-SE 100
2249.3 (+12.6)

USM (Datedstream)
149.70 (-1.19)

Market report, page 26

NatWest lifts rate

National Westminster Bank has raised its mortgage rate to 15.4 per cent, adding 0.75 per cent to the cost of home loans. New borrowers are eligible for an 0.75 per cent discount.

French funds

Union des Assurances de Paris, France's leading life insurer, is raising £10.5 billion (£1.07 billion). About £40 million is earmarked for British institutions.

Comment, page 25

Rise to £11m

Appleyard Group, the motor dealer, made pre-tax profits for 1989 of £11.1 million (£9.06 million) on sales of £414 million (£327 million). Earnings per share stay at 22.4p. The dividend rises to 7.8p.

Williams up

Williams Holdings, the industrial group, made £153 million before tax in 1989, a rise of 32 per cent. The final dividend rises 1p to 7p, making 11.5p.

Tempus, page 24

STOCK MARKETS

New York	
Dow Jones	2584.68 (+20.48)*
Tokyo	
Nikkei Av	33321.57 (+1689.10)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	2872.53 (+21.88)
Amsterdam	
3M Tendency	104.5 (-1.2)
London: AEX	1545.6 (-34.5)
Frankfurt: DAX	1778.04 (-13.80)
Brussels	
General	5588.16 (+38.17)
Paris: CAC	482.94 (-11.7)
Zurich: SKA Gen	596.8 (-4.4)
London	
FT-30 Share	1115.85 (+0.90)
FT-100	1219.70 (+5.25)
FT-1000	2242.2 (+11.4)
FT-10000	2842.2 (+2.2)
FT-100000	88.35 (+0.15)
FT-1000000	80.26 (+0.11)

Share-buying casts shadow over group's better than expected results

Brierley raises Vickers stake

By Colin Campbell

A leap in Vickers' 1989 pre-tax profits from £69.8 million to a higher than expected £83.6 million was overshadowed yesterday by news that Sir Ron Brierley had raised his stake in the company from 17.25 per cent to 18.21 per cent, equivalent to 17.94 per cent of the votes.

Sir Ron has previously called for the company's Rolls-Royce division to be hived off.

But Sir David Plastow, Vickers' chairman, reiterated that Rolls-Royce had served all of Vickers' shareholders well, adding: "The board of Vickers has resolved that Rolls-Royce is not for sale."

Period.

Rolls-Royce contributed £24.7 million to Vickers' total profit of £83.6 million, compared with £23.2 million previously, despite suffering a £6 million knock from currency movements. Its turnover was £253.2 million (£205.3 million).

Sir David said there had been a 16 per cent increase in world-wide retail sales by Rolls-Royce cars in 1989, and that the world-wide retail sales increase in January had been 26 per cent. The division, which had achieved a 30 per cent return on trading capital, fitted in well with Vickers as a whole, Sir David added.

Defence and aerospace interests made a lower profits contribution at £11.8 million

against £15.6 million, although Sir David believes prospects for the group's defence interests are good. Medical and marine engineering interests advanced.

Vickers is raising its final dividend from 4.6p to 5.6p, making 8.9p (7.5p) for the year. The shares rose from 195p to 203p.

The group's net cash pile is now £141 million and Sir David emphasized that he would not be diverted by the lure of high interest rates should a good commercial opportunity come along. "We are not a bank - nor would we wish to be one," he said.

Cash balances - initially born out of the £245 million sale of its lithographic plates business but partly denied by the purchase of Ross Cathcart, the specialist alloys group, and, in January this year, Riva, the Italian boat builder, helped bring in £17.5 million of net interest.

In 1988, Vickers paid out £7.4 million in interest charges.

Sir David reiterated his strong views - circulated to shareholders in January - that Sir Ron and IEP were not good for Vickers' share register. As a shareholder perceived to be foreign, Sir Ron's holding could destroy Vickers' distinctly British characteristics which was vital in defence contracts, he said.

Temper, page 24



Standing by Rolls-Royce: Sir David Plastow, the chairman of Vickers, yesterday

Laing hits back at Pall Mall bid

By Matthew Bond

Mr Brian Chilver, chairman of Laing Properties, has hit out at the "opportunistic" nature of the £440 million bid for Laing by Pall Mall Properties, the joint venture between P&O and the private group Chelsfield.

"The stock market is down, the property market is down. It is very opportunistic to come in at this time," he said. Pall Mall is bidding 650p in cash for Laing shares, which closed unchanged yesterday at 664p.

Mr Chilver described the level of the bid as "desperate". "It does not reflect the true value of the company, either as it stands now or in terms of potential we have within the portfolio."

Mr Chilver was speaking at the publication of Laing's first defence document, which does not contain details of profits for 1989 or the all-important details of the portfolio valuation. But as of

December 1988 about 53 per cent of the assets were in the United Kingdom, 29 per cent in Canada and 18 per cent in the United States.

With so many of its assets abroad, Mr Chilver believes Laing does not deserve the lowly stock market rating given to United Kingdom property companies. Nor, he says, is the company highly or imprudently geared.

"The company is highly attractive and will continue to prosper, which is clearly recognized by Pall Mall. My board has advised shareholders to accept its compliments, but not its offer."

Pall Mall owns 22.8 per cent of Laing Properties, while 38 per cent is owned by the board and family and charitable trusts. Mr Chilver is a trustee of trusts holding 12 per cent of Laing shares. He said he would take advice as appropriate.

Investors back sale at Ferranti

By Our City Staff

Shareholders in Ferranti International have approved the £270 million sale of the defence systems group to GEC.

Mr Eugene Anderson, the new chairman of Ferranti, said the company expects to receive the cash from GEC on Friday.

The meeting to approve Ferranti's planned £187 million rights issue has been adjourned until Tuesday. Provided the GEC cash is received by Monday, the plan will be abandoned.

Ferranti also said that, subject to the sale proceeds being received within the specified time period, it proposed to make a bonus issue of special shares - originally part of the rights plans - on the basis of one new special share for every 10 ordinary shares.

Ferranti's rights issue plans followed alleged fraud at its International Signal and Control subsidiary, which led to a net debt of £275.7 million.

Receiver called in at Wetherall

By Gillian Bowditch

Wetherall, the women's raincoat maker, has gone into receivership owing more than £2.5 million.

Mr Terry Carter, a partner at Ernst & Young, has been appointed administrative receiver for Wetherall and its sister company Dudes, an industrial outerwear and leisurewear manufacturer.

Wetherall, which has been in business since 1924, makes practical rainwear.

It has its own shop in London's Burlington Arcade and a concession within Selfridges.

Wetherall and Dudes were bought last year by the privately-owned Group PKA which went into receivership on January 8.

Starved of funds and support from their parent company, the companies were in limbo and the appointment of administrative receivers is the only way to allow the busi-

nesses to continue trading while purchasers are sought.

Wetherall, which has 90 employees in seven manufacturing and retail locations, had sales of £1.5 million in 1989.

The group owes its bankers about £2.5 million, and as yet it is unclear how much other creditors are owed or how big the company's interest bill is.

Dudes has a staff of 60 and had sales of £730,000 last year.

Mr Carter says there are no proper management accounts for the period of PKA's ownership of the business but he says Wetherall is probably trading profitably.

"It should be a good opportunity for someone to buy a well-established brand name. The banks' co-operation has been instrumental in allowing us to undertake rapid reviews of both firms with the intention of realizing the two businesses as going concerns," he says.

Sun setting on prospects of French takeover bid

COMMENT David Brewerton

The London market seems to be taking at face value the pledge by Union des Assurances de Paris that while it was planning to use the proceeds of the Fr10.5 billion share offer for acquisition, Sun Life - in which it holds 25 per cent - would not be on the list unless another predator intervened.

Sun Life shares slipped just like all the others in yesterday's nervous markets.

The pledge by Jean Peyrelevade, UAP president, came on a flying visit to persuade UK institutions to take up the £40 million tranche of the issue earmarked for London. He may have much yet to learn about London, for to remove the takeover speculation is, for some so-called investors, to take away the motive for buying.

M Peyrelevade explained that he would like the balance of UAP's business to remain split equally between life and non-life, but as its life operations in France were growing at more than 20 per cent a year, acquisitions would probably be concentrated on the non-life side. Opportunities opened up by the pan-European market after 1992 would be attractive for the very large insurers and for the companies exploiting specialized niches. However, he felt that the medium-sized companies would be seeking to form alliances with larger partners. "We are not predators," he said. "The ideal for us would be to reach a friendly agreement with somebody."

UAP's offer is timed to coincide with the relaxation of French restrictions on outside ownership of state-owned in-

surance companies. After the issue, the French government will hold 65 per cent of UAP's equity and the state-owned bank BNP will own a further 10 per cent. UAP is France's largest life insurer and third largest non-life company.

However, London analysts doubt that M Peyrelevade will be rushing out with the cheque book just yet. UAP has splashed out Fr17 billion over the past two years, the bulk of which went on a 34 per cent stake in the French insurance holding company, Groupe Victoire. And his pledges about Sun Life may safely be taken at face value, if only because its share register is now completely deadlocked.

Liberty Life, the South African insurer, holds 29.9 per cent of Sun Life and five months ago both it and Sun Life entered into a cosy deal with UAP. Liberty Life agreed not to bid without offering its own stake to UAP at that price - an arrangement that in practice ensures there will be no bid until one or the other is prepared to give up.

The inflow of the issue proceeds will do nothing to alter that situation, and if anything is about to happen at Sun Life it is more likely to be a rights issue than a bid. Sun Life wanted to raise £62 million when UAP arrived on its share register in September 1988, but the plan was dropped. However, a year later it was struggling to pay its interim dividend out of shareholders' funds. Those hanging on for a lucrative bid battle may instead find themselves asked to dig into their pockets.

Sir Ronald's goodwill test

Funding arrangements for the new Financial Reporting Council, like the proposed balance on the council between accountants, practitioners and users of accounts, reflect the subtlety and powers of persuasion that Sir Ronald Dearing has displayed throughout the reform process.

The Government has finally been persuaded to put up a third of the cost through a levy on all companies, defusing the accountants' fears that enforcing the new binding standards, if necessary through the courts, might bring huge open-ended commitments to legal fees.

Only the banks seem to have been recalcitrant, with the Bank of England having to act as an initial proxy. The accountants' other big fear was that vested interests, such as big companies, would buy influence on future accounting standards. That has also been resisted, though Sir Ronald allows for the possibility of "associates" who might make some financial contribution. Even allowing for inflation, the likely annual budget is about double Sir Ronald's initial estimates.

Brand-new machinery for setting and monitoring accounting standards will, however, still encounter the old thorny problems. First on the agenda for the

Accounting Standards Board, which is due to take over from the voluntary Accounting Standards Committee at the beginning of August, will be the controversial proposed new standards on accounting for goodwill and for intangible assets.

Responses to the ASC proposals were asked for by July 31, so the new ASB will take over both the proposals and the flood of conflicting criticism from all sides. Sorting that out will be a mighty test for co-operation between the auditing profession, industry and the financial community. Many finance directors have vehemently opposed writing off goodwill from acquisitions against profits in annual instalments. Banks, the Stock Exchange and the wider financial community are not notably keen about that or about the proposed treatment of brand names as goodwill. But a fudged compromise in the cause of pragmatism - which would probably take the form of leaving the status quo - would spell failure for the new system from the start.

Whoever is chosen as the first full-time chairman of the ASB will certainly have a baptism of fire, requiring somewhat different - and perhaps nastier - skills from those associated with the luminaries of the ASC.

Congress critical of checks at Lloyd's

From Susan Elliott, Washington

A US Congressional report has criticized Lloyd's of London for failing to check adequately the credentials of its names.

The report, issued under the direction of Mr John Dingell, the Democratic chairman of a subcommittee of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, comes in a week when Lloyd's faces a legal action from some members.

More than 800 members allege they lost \$304 million because of negligence by the

manager of a syndicate to which they belonged.

The Congressional report generally commends Britain's regulatory measures and its reliance on independent auditors to check the accuracy of insurance company reports. But it criticized Lloyd's for "fraudulent and incompetent behaviour by some syndicate managers and brokers and resistance to paying large claims by syndicate members whose fortunes are at risk."

The report added: "The pro-

cess of screening names for good character and financial worth has not included strong background checks or regular financial reports on individual syndicate members and has not prevented persons such as Carlos Miro from using his status as a Lloyd's name as an advertisement of his respectability."

Mr Miro, a Cuban-born London businessman, allegedly wrote fake insurance policies and is under investigation in the US by tax

and immigration authorities. The Louisiana Commissioner of Insurance is suing Mr Miro and his companies for \$38.5 million.

The Congressional subcommittee interviewed the broker and lead underwriter at Lloyd's who dealt with him. They said it was irrelevant to look into his background because they based their assessments on knowledge of the insurance market and not the character of the person undertaking the risk.

Going over their sums at Drexel

Senior executives from Drexel Burnham Lambert, who had previously confirmed that they had paid themselves as much as \$350 million in bonuses since December, now say a more accurate figure is \$260 million. Meanwhile, US tax experts have been saying that if a bankruptcy judge rules that these bonuses constitute "fraudulent conveyance" - i.e. that they were paid in the knowledge that the company was going under - then the total bonus must be returned to the court. And that apparently means Drexel employees will not only have to dig into their own pockets for the money they received, but also make good the scores of millions that the Inland Revenue Service withheld, since US law dictates that taxes paid on a fraudulent conveyance are non-refundable. It has also come to light that a number of former Drexel employees are on the verge of bankruptcy as they had taken out personal loans from Citibank - one of Drexel's main bankers - to buy stock in the company which is now worthless. "Lots of people have been wiped out," said one former employee. And in what is tantamount to a warning to other banks, a US government official said it never had any "inclination" to bail out Drexel. "They were investment bankers, for heaven's sake," he said. "They knew the risks in what they were doing. The taxpayers weren't going to assume it for them."

THE TIMES NY CITY DIARY

Roaring appreciation

Car buffs and straight investment advisers alike have, it seems, all been impressed by Schroders director Alastair Menzies, who treated himself to a limited-edition Ferrari F40 for Christmas. The car, which Menzies paid £175,000, would now fetch just short of £1 million in the second-hand market. "But I am going to keep it, I am not in this market to speculate,"

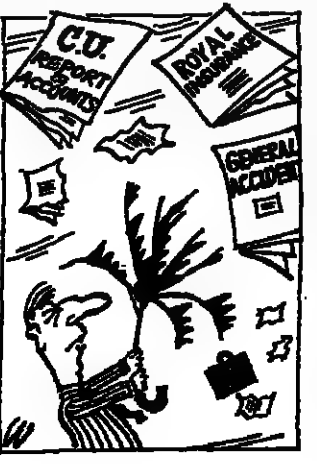
than their predecessors. And they are now being blamed here as one of the factors causing developers and "realtors" - estate agents - to go out of business.

Throne up

Meanwhile, back at home, the price of plumbing these days seems to know no bounds. The Property Services Agency, part of the Department of the Environment, has just placed a contract for nearly £600,000 for the refurbishment of the lavatories at The Treasury, the address of which, you will remember, is Great George Street. The major works at the Treasury - "stage 2, stack 10" in contract-speak - will cost twice as much as the refurbishment of the ablutions at the Sir John Moore Barracks at Folkestone. The difference, I suppose, between a lavatory fit for a Chancellor and mere squaddies' ablutions.

Busting out

The baby-boomers have now been replaced, in real estate language at least, by the "baby-busters." These are apparently couples who have no or fewer children and therefore require smaller and thus less expensive properties



Cavalier Cazenove

Cazenove, that most blue-blooded of British brokers, is equally well thought of in New York. But feminists here are becoming increasingly concerned that it is now more or less the only British firm without a female partner. And although the 11 Cazenove employees due to be made up to partnership level on May 1 have yet to be officially announced - they were personally told of their good fortune in an internal memo a month or two ago - it is understood that this list still does not include a woman. Davina Parker, long tipped to become the first female invited to join the partnership - since, as the granddaughter of one-time senior partner Sir Anthony Horroby, she at least had the right pedigree - left four years ago to join Henderson Administration as a fund manager. Now reputed to be next in line are Sheena Tate and Anna Simon. But already on this year's list are, one or two men a year or two their junior in terms of age. Whether this is an ominous indication or not, one insider, asked about the possibility of a female partner, laughed and said: "It's always been regarded as something that is unlikely ever to happen."

Something of an understatement... Lisa Ann Jones, the first Drexel employee convicted in an insider trading scandal at the firm, said in a US television interview on Saturday she feels "abandoned" by her former employer.

Carol Leonard
New York

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STOCK MARKET

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Late recovery

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began yesterday. Dealings end March 9. Contango day March 12. Settlement day March 19.
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and prices (unless stated) are based on middle prices. (an) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 26)

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1	Amalgamated	Industrial	100.00	+1.00	+1.00
2	British	Industrial	100.00	+1.00	+1.00
3	British	Industrial	100.00	+1.00	+1.00
4	British	Industrial	100.00	+1.00	+1.00
5	British	Industrial	100.00	+1.00	+1.00
6	British	Industrial	100.00	+1.00	+1.00
7	British	Industrial	100.00	+1.00	+1.00
8	British	Industrial	100.00	+1.00	+1.00

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BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Open	Close	%

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Company	Price	Change	%

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Price	Change	%

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Price	Change	%

UNDATED

Company	Price	Change	%

INDEX LINK

Company	Price	Change	%

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

Company	Price	Change	%

ELECTRICALS

Company	Price	Change	%

BREWERIES

Company	Price	Change	%

BUILDING, ROADS

Company	Price	Change	%

FINANCE, LAND

Company	Price	Change	%

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change	%

FOODS

Company	Price	Change	%

HOTELS, CATERERS

Company	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS E-H

Company	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS I-L

Company	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS M-P

Company	Price	Change	%

INDUSTRIALS Q-T

Company	Price	Change	%

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Company	Price	Change	%

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

Company	Price	Change	%

PROPERTY

Company	Price	Change	%

SHOES, LEATHER

Company	Price	Change	%

TEXTILES

Company	Price	Change	%

TOBACCO

Company	Price	Change	%

TRANSPORT

Company	Price	Change	%

WATER

Company	Price	Change	%

INSURANCE

Company	Price	Change	%

LEISURE

Company	Price	Change	%

MINING

Company	Price	Change	%

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

Company	Price	Change	%

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

Company	Price	Change	%

OILS, GAS

Company	Price	Change	%

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Company	Price	Change	%

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

Company	Price	Change	%

PROPERTY

Company	Price	Change	%

SHOES, LEATHER

Company	Price	Change	%

TEXTILES

Company	Price	Change	%

TOBACCO

Company	Price	Change	%

TRANSPORT

Company	Price	Change	%

WATER

Company	Price	Change	%

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Company	Price	Change	%

Ex dividend Ex at b Forecast dividend e Interim dividend passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment h Pre-merger figures i Forecast earnings j Ex other k Ex rights l Ex corp or share split l Tax-free ... No significant data.

Practice

Register

ggett

H REQUE

LAW

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange index compared with 1986 was down at 90.1 (day's range 90.0-91.1)			
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES			
Market rates for February 28			
	Spot	1 month	3 months
New York	1.0955-1.0990	1.0953-1.0995	0.93-0.91pr
London	1.0951-1.0923	0.9252-0.9283	0.90-0.25pr
Amsterdam	3.2191-3.2293	3.2577-3.2293	14-20pr
Brussels	48.49-49.80	59.51-59.78	75-20pr
Calcutta	10.8672	216.70-217.00	216.70-217.00
Dublin	1.0758-1.0799	1.0770-1.0780	30-25pr
Frankfurt	2.3595-2.3677	2.3620-2.3654	14-20pr
Geneva	1.0950-1.0982	1.1010-1.1022	10-10pr
Hong Kong	133.71-134.30	133.71-134.19	14-20pr
Madrid	211.34-211.78	211.63-211.78	14-20pr
Mexico	2.0912-2.0922	2.0912-2.0922	11-10pr
Paris	0.9743-0.7082	0.9490-0.7082	3 3/4-3pr
Sao Paulo	13.638-13.9811	13.642-13.9896	3 3/4-3pr
Tokyo	229.12-230.00	229.12-230.00	14-20pr
Vancouver	20.13-20.20	20.13-20.19	11 1/2-10pr
Zurich	2.353-2.5178	2.514-2.5178	14-14pr
Preferential = pr. Discount = disc.			

DOLLAR SPOT RATES			
	Spot	1 month	3 months
Denmark	5.6420-5.6780		
W Germany	6.8979-5.8974		
France	4.814-4.883		
Netherlands	1.9000-1.9010		
France	5.7050-5.8710		
Japan	148.65-148.75		
Italy	1.9400-1.9410		
Spain	166.00-166.10		
Sweden	4.6600-4.6610		
Switzerland	2.0000-2.0010		
United Kingdom	0.7000-0.7010		
United States	1.0000-1.0010		
West Germany	5.6400-5.6410		
Yugoslavia	1.9400-1.9410		

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %			
Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth
£ sterling	8 1/4-8 1/2	8 1/4-8 1/2	8 1/4-8 1/2
DM Deutschmarks	7 3/4-7 3/4	8 1/4-8 1/2	8 1/4-8 1/2
FF francs	7 1/2-7 1/2	8 1/4-8 1/2	8 1/4-8 1/2
French Franc	10 1/4-10 1/4	10 1/4-10 1/4	10 1/4-10 1/4
£ sterling	11 1/4-11 1/4	11 1/4-11 1/4	11 1/4-11 1/4
DM Deutschmarks	10 1/4-10 1/4	10 1/4-10 1/4	10 1/4-10 1/4
FF francs	10 1/4-10 1/4	10 1/4-10 1/4	10 1/4-10 1/4
Yen	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4
DM Deutschmarks	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4

GOLD BULLION (Per ounce)			
Open	\$413.00-413.50	Close	\$411.00-411.50
High	\$413.00-413.50	Low	\$409.50-410.00

GOLD COINS (Per coin, Ex VAT)			
Belgium	\$410.00-426.00	(£247.50-254.00)	
Canada	\$410.00-426.00	(£247.50-254.00)	
France	\$410.00-426.00	(£247.50-254.00)	
Germany	\$410.00-426.00	(£247.50-254.00)	
Italy	\$410.00-426.00	(£247.50-254.00)	
Japan	\$410.00-426.00	(£247.50-254.00)	
United Kingdom	\$410.00-426.00	(£247.50-254.00)	
United States	\$410.00-426.00	(£247.50-254.00)	
Yugoslavia	\$410.00-426.00	(£247.50-254.00)	

PRECIOUS METALS			
Platinum	per oz \$513.50 (\$230.35)		
Gold	per oz \$413.00 (\$230.35)		
Silver	per oz \$13.00 (\$230.35)		

NON-FINANCIAL FUTURES

SE 100		Previous open interest		Open High Low Close Vol		Previous open interest	
Mar 99	2215.0 2261.0	2214.00 2259.0	8312	Mar 99	88.78	88.78	Previous open interest 2916
Apr 99	2265.0 2262.0	2264.00 2259.0	8312	Jun 99	88.83	88.82	88.70 100
Three Month Starling		Previous open interest 15970		US Treasury Bond		88.58	
Mar 99	84.97 84.97	84.93 84.95	5250	Mar 99	85.12	85.12	Previous open interest 5707
Apr 99	85.27 85.27	85.21 85.24	12270	Jun 99	85.12	85.12	85.00 2841
Three Month Eurodollar		Previous open interest 42986		Long Gold		85.19	85.19
Mar 99	91.65 91.65	91.29 91.60	2555	Apr 99	85.19	85.19	Previous open interest 42295
Apr 99	91.61 91.61	91.29 91.60	2555	Jun 99	85.19	85.19	85.05 2689
Three Month Euro Dtd		Previous open interest 52394		Swiss Franc Govt Bond		85.05	
Mar 99	91.40 91.40	91.38 91.42	1943	Mar 99	85.05	85.05	Previous open interest 1219
Apr 99	91.45 91.45	91.38 91.42	1943	Jun 99	85.05	85.05	84.90 21
Three Month Euro Dtd		Previous open interest 57771		German Govt Bond		82.75	
Mar 99	90.48 90.48	90.31 90.42	2563	Mar 99	82.75	82.30	Previous open interest 87771
Apr 99	90.45 90.45	90.31 90.42	2563	Jun 99	82.30	81.95	82.15 3219

COMMODITIES

LONDON COX		LONDON METAL EXCHANGE	
Official prices/volumes previous day			
ES	COXCOA	(£/tonne)	Cash 3 month Vol Tons
Mar 99	640-639	Copper Gds A	1435.0-1436.0 1428.0-1430.0 419300
Apr 99	656-654	Lead	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Jul 99	659-656	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Sep 99	654-653	Zinc Sp Hg	2747.5 n/a 2747.5
Dec 99	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 00	640-639	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 00	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 00	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 00	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 01	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 01	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 01	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 01	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 02	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 02	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 02	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 02	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 03	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 03	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 03	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 03	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 04	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 04	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 04	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 04	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 05	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 05	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 05	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 05	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 06	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 06	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 06	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 06	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 07	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 07	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 07	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 07	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 08	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 08	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 08	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 08	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 09	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 09	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 09	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 09	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 10	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 10	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 10	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 10	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 11	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 11	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 11	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 11	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 12	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 12	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 12	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 12	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 13	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 13	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 13	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 13	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 14	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 14	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 14	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 14	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 15	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 15	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 15	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 15	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 16	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 16	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 16	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 16	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 17	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 17	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 17	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 17	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 18	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 18	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 18	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 18	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 19	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 19	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 19	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 19	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 20	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 20	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 20	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 20	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 21	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 21	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 21	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 21	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 22	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 22	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 22	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 22	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 23	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 23	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 23	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 23	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 24	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 24	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 24	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 24	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 25	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 25	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 25	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 25	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 26	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 26	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 26	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 26	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 27	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 27	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 27	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 27	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 28	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 28	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 28	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 28	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 29	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 29	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 29	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 29	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 30	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 30	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 30	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 30	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 31	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 31	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 31	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 31	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 32	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 32	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 32	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 32	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 33	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 33	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 33	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 33	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 34	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 34	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 34	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 34	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Feb 35	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
May 35	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442.0 1440.0-1442.0 103650
Aug 35	654-653	Alum B Gds	509.00-511.00 433.03-434.00 567700
Nov 35	654-653	Alum B Gds	1440.0-1442

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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PHH France and PHH Ireland, all of which is designed to realise the potential of our services in the USA and the European Community.

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PHH

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There are currently four legal advisory posts available involving general advisory, and drafting work, coupled with some negotiation on issues of commercial and business law, domestic, EEC and international. The posts cover a wide range of substantive and regulatory law in the commercial field - advice and legislation (primary and secondary), on companies, securities, insurance, bankruptcy, consumer protection, competition issues and external trade, advice and drafting on contracts for the Government's grants to industry and advice on all legal

aspects of the government's relations with industry.

Two posts in Investigations Division are also available. This Division prosecutes offences under the Companies Act 1985, the Insolvency Act 1986, and other legislation in the commercial field. Lawyers also provide advice on the investigation of companies under the Companies Act and on allegations of insider dealing.

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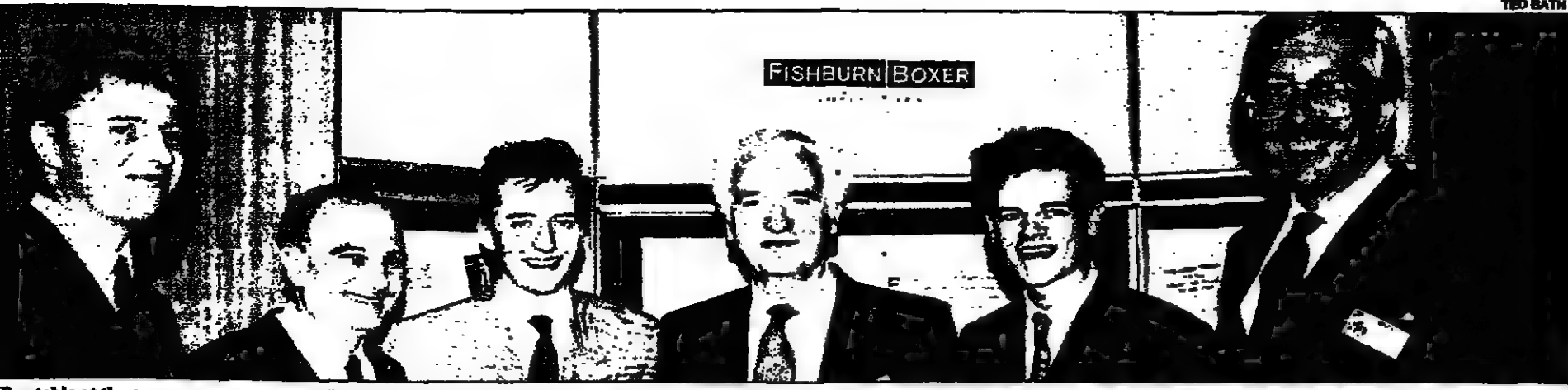
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THE LAW



Top table at the ceremony: runner-up Nigel Poole (left), Clive Boxer, winner Joseph Leake, Lord Mackay, runner-up Matthew Burgess and Michael Hamlyn, chief night editor of The Times

What is your name worth?

Results were announced on Friday of the second *Times/Fishburn Boxer Young Professionals' Competition*. At a ceremony in the Savoy Hotel, London, attended by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, the winning prize of £1,000 and a Psion MC400 mobile computer was presented to Joseph Leake, a sixth-form student from Cecil Jones High School, Southend-on-Sea, Essex.

The runners-up were Matthew Burgess, who works for the Law Commission, and Nigel Poole, a pupil barrister from Manchester, who each received prizes of £250 and a Psion Organizer II.

The competition subject was the topical and controversial issue of libel damages and awards for injury, on the question, *Is the law right to*

value reputation more than life or limb? Many entrants were clearly inspired by original thought, although their conclusions mostly veered towards the conservative.

"It was most encouraging to see so many entries of such a high calibre, although it was slightly disappointing that whereas girls did so well last year, we had none among our finalists this time," said Clive Boxer, senior partner of the sponsors, Fishburn Boxer, who shared the judging with Lord Mackay and Charles Wilson, editor of *The Times*. "What was also surprising was the tendency of entrants to support the status quo. In the light of recent developments we had been expecting expected rather more essays to take the opposite view."

Not that the disparity between value reputation more than life or limb? Many entrants were clearly inspired by original thought, although their conclusions mostly veered towards the conservative.

Edward Fennell on the winning Young Professionals

"reputation" and "life and limb" awards were entirely lost on our entrants. A runner-up, Nigel Poole, said: "Had Nikolai Tolstoy accidentally killed Lord Aldington instead of defaming him, he would now be a wealthier man. For while the jury in that famous case awarded damages of £1.5 million, damages for bereavement are fixed by Parliament at only £3,500."

Most of our shortlisted entries adopted what can only be described as a romantic view of reputation. The fact that Shakespeare had described it as both a "bubble" and a "jewel" was not overlooked. But the runner-up, Matthew Burgess, observed: "If all that separates man from beast is his ability to evolve reason and creative thought, reputation may be all that is worth protecting."

"To inflict physical injury is to cause pain and blunt enjoyment of life, whether the injured is human or animal. To denigrate someone's achievements is to attack that part of them which is immortal and unique. Stephen Hawking lives within a crippled body but his reputation transcends his physical state. What would cause him more suffering, a serious car accident or an irredeemable accusation of plagiarism?"

Neil Kitchener, a shortlisted entrant, invited us to a despatch scene. He argued: "A person will review his life to judge whether he has led a life of value. In doing so he will not conclude that he has failed to live a life of value because he has been deprived of an arm or a leg. Such a loss merely represents an obstacle, the overcoming of which will bring personal satisfaction and honour. The main yardstick by which a person will measure the value of his life will be his standing in society and the extent to which his good name will survive him."

What about those of us, however, whose achievements are more modest? It could be argued that libel is an indulgence of the rich and distinguished. Boxer noted essays pointing out that the system favours the famous.

● Shortlisted: Joseph Leake, Southend; Matthew Burgess, Brighton; Nigel Poole, Manchester; Simon Dowler, London; Stephen Rhodes, London; Neil Kitchener, Cardiff.

"Hello, that's just the chap; he could be better than Childs."

Then maybe, I would have been selected for England, and by this time I would have honed my unique leg weak to such precision that my fellow young lions would be thinking: "Hello, this chap Joe is going to win the series against the West Indies for us. Hurrah!"

There is a serious point to be made. False accusations can cause wounds which cannot be healed by medical treatment. Professional slander or libellous remarks wreck careers. Of course, injury can do the same, but at least everyone can claim for compensation through the Law Courts or insurance. The same cannot be said of libel, and until legal aid is given in such cases, there can be no justice.

Stumped: it's just not cricket

Contest winner Joseph Leake goes in to bat for the right to libel damages

again for the remainder of the season. Many lost games, I am sure, would have been saved had my cunning leg tweak been part of the school's bowling artillery. The school and, yes, even the county, had been robbed of a talent. I held all of this to be the truth, and was disgusted that my reputation as an effective second-change bowler (I held the best bowling average for house cricket) lay in tatters.

A further event occurred which left an indelible impression on me. After lunch, it was the turn of the Cecil Jones High Fourth Year XI to bat. Against me was a bumping wicket, deteriorating light and two maniacs who formed the opposition's pace attack. With keen eye and stout heart, I fought my way to 16 not out.

Then, at the second ball of my fourth over, I looked at my wily adversary. He had a manic glint in his eye, he took his usual 10-mile-sprint run-up, and pitched it short. The ball bounced up to strike me on the side of the nose. That hurt. That hurt a lot, and I was caught out through losing heart, and my nose is still not quite plum with the rest of my face.

So what is the point of this anecdote and what bearing does it have on the law, libel and compensation? Well, if the decision I endured due to my idiosyncratic delivery can be seen as a simile for libel cases, and the physical pain as a simile for compensation cases for injury, I hope you are no more in the dark.

INNS AND OUTS

Equal pay for work of equal value was introduced when the Sex Discrimination Act was amended in 1986. A framework of legislation, however, has not been enough to ensure this right for women. In particular, the impact of a successful equal pay claim is minimized by the prohibition on class actions under English law. When the Sex Discrimination Act was introduced, the right of trade unions to refer discriminatory employment patterns to the Central Arbitration Committee for independent valuation disappeared. With it went the collective initiatives through the committee's ability to order an upgrading where women's pay was unfairly downgraded.

However, the unions have developed a strategy combining litigation with confrontation and negotiation that has already had a marked impact on equal-value policies in some industries. The strategy involves fighting an equal pay case through the courts, including the European Court if necessary, to establish a precedent, pursuing more cases on the basis of that precedent, then using the threat of further litigation to bring the employer to the bargaining table. Eagle Star revalued and regraded many women's jobs after an equal-value tribunal case involving typing supervisors and management secretaries. Pilkington Glass, Littlewoods Pools and the Bank of England Printing Works are among many others that have made equal-value concessions.

Next month the National Council for Civil Liberties publishes the first of three books on key civil-liberty issues in Northern Ireland. The book, by Vincent McCormack, a psychology lecturer at Ulster University, and Joe O'Hara, a trade union lawyer, is called *Enduring Inequality - Religious Discrimination in Employment in Northern Ireland*. It will follow the Government's attempt to redress the inequalities experienced by Catholics in the province through the Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Act 1989. Thirteen years after an Act by the same name outlawing discrimination in employment was passed by the then Labour administration, religious inequality has not decreased. Population surveys show that in the 13 years since the 1976 Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Act was passed, Catholic males are still two-and-a-half times more likely to be unemployed than Protestants. McCormack and O'Hara draw on their experiences in academia, the law and the trade unions to chart the story of the campaigns that persuaded the Government that new legislation was needed. Internal pressure produced no government response and it was only when pressure from the United States built up that the Government produced the legislation. The authors conclude, however, that though the new Act introduces religious compulsory monitoring of all work-forces of more than 25 employees and outlaws indirect discrimination, the new measures are restricted and their potential will be limited.

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HORIZONS

Do you want to be in movies?

A career as a cinema manager means more than turning up to roll the films. Derek Morgan asks two industry men about the attractions of their jobs

Cinema-going in Britain is showing signs of a revival. After a catastrophic decline from the late 1940s, audiences have grown from 54 million in 1984 to about 90 million for 1989. And spending on screen advertising has almost doubled.

Increased affluence and blockbuster movies have helped, but much of this success is the result of more customer-friendly cinemas. The two main British chains, Cannon and Rank, have refurbished their cinemas and several entrepreneurs have started independent picture houses.

A couple of years ago, *Screen International* described exhibition as "the only thriving sector of the British film industry". But can the revival be viewed as a trailer for better prospects?

The arrival of the American 10-screen multiplex, described as "a quantum leap ahead of the two and three-screen cinemas of the 1970s", has been a big boost in the campaign to woo people back to the movies. Since the first multiplex, The Point, opened at Milton Keynes in 1984, the concept has

spread to mainly new, out-of-town sites across the country, and there are now about 300 such cinemas.

Stuart Boreman, general manager of the Meteor Centre multiplex in Derby, which is operated by United Cinemas International (UCI), has gone from trainee to management responsibility in 18 months. The centre's £4.5 million investment in 10 screens with 2,000 capacity and 40 staff (rising to between 50 and 60 in the busy winter season), makes his a demanding job.

Derby's "Clash of the Titans" is a focus of national film industry attention since a rival multiplex, The Showcase, run by another American firm, National Amusements, opened at the same time, December 1988, a few miles away. Together, the Derby multiplexes claim to have increased city cinema admissions from about 200,000 a year to 1.2 million.

Boreman graduated from Sheffield Polytechnic with a degree in film studies, then sold rock music-related merchandise in the United States for three years. The commercial experience and his time in America helped him to get



Multiplex: Boreman says criticism of the concept as the "fast food merchants of the business" is unfair

a job with UCI as a trainee manager on his return to Britain. Having trained in the Sheffield multiplex, he came to Derby after a spell as manager of The Empire, Leicester Square.

The Meteor has a fast-food restaurant (the Fast Lane with Pizza, Spud-Mex and New England Dairy Ice-Cream) and a popcorn bar. All new trainees work in these areas, as well as in the box office and as ushers.

Managers attend UCI's Manchester training centre for off-the-job courses in employment law, cinema licensing legislation, health and hygiene, payroll reports and staff motivation. Boreman says: "A vital aspect of the job is the scheduling of film starting

times to maximize profit — otherwise you could have 2,000 people turning up at the same time."

"People call us the fast-food merchants of the cinema business, but I don't think that's fair. What is wrong with seeing films in a bright, clean environment?"

UCI takes management trainees from a wide background. Enthusiasm for the cinema helps and the company is keen to promote from within; the general manager of Britain's first inner-city multi-screen, at Bayswater in London, started with UCI as an usher.

Salaries range from about £8,000 for a trainee manager to £18,000 for a general manager, plus performance-related bonuses. The next step would be regional responsibility.

Another cinema manager who has had to face the challenge of the multiplexes is Laurie Hayward, who runs the regional film theatre, The Metro, in central Derby, halfway between the two out-of-town sites. This single-screen 126-seater opened in 1981 and is one of the British Film Institute's subsidized network of "alternative" cinemas.

Hayward has an MA in Creative Photography and worked as a part-time lecturer and studio technician in higher education before applying for the job of Metro director when the cinema opened.

Academic qualifications in film studies are important in the subsidized sector with its educational and cultural responsibilities — The Metro runs after-the-show discus-

sions on selected features — but Hayward found his interview panel particularly keen to assess his administrative ability and business acumen.

He says: "People think it is selecting films and turning up in the evenings to watch them: that's about 5 per cent of it."

Salaries in the subsidized exhibition area start at about £8,000, rising to £13,000 in regional film theatre management, depending on the size of the operation.

To get started, undergraduates who are film enthusiasts should volunteer to help out at their college film society or local film theatre, then take their chances as they arise, keeping an eye open for recruitment advertisements in trade journals and the creative and media appointments pages of newspapers.

The *Film and Television Yearbook*, published by the British Film Institute, lists every "commercial" cinema in the country as well as the addresses of the cinema circuit headquarters. A section on BFI-supported cinemas gives details of the subsidized exhibition network. This is helpful for anybody interested in a career in the industry. It also details UK film and television study courses.

A booklet on cinema management as a career is available from United Cinemas International (UK), Parkside House, 51/53 Brick Street, London W1Y 7DU.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

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Informal enquiries will be welcomed by the Director of Personnel, Mr. P.A. Lewis Telephone Workday (0302) 500900 ext. 2776. Application forms and job descriptions are available from the Employee Services Unit, Basselaw District General Hospital, Kilmarnock, Walsay, Notts. S61 6ED. Telephone Workday (0302) 500900 ext. 2741.

Closing date for completed applications will be 28th March 1990.

Basselaw Health Authority

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Application forms and further details are available from the Personnel Unit, Chief Executive's Department, 2 Priory Place, Doncaster. DN1 1BN Tel. Doncaster (0302) 734020.

The closing date for applications is 19th March 1990.

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Information pack available from Nicky Channon: same number.

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The post-holder will have particular responsibility for engineering maintenance standards and therefore must have a professional background in engineering. Candidates should be able to demonstrate a significant level of managerial achievement and performance and should hold corporate membership of either the Institution of Electrical Engineers, the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers or the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. Consideration will also be given to applicants who are working towards corporate membership of one of these Institutes.

Informal enquiries are welcomed by: Mr P. Mele, Estates Manager, on ext 3330. An information pack is available from: The Unit Personnel Manager, Kidderminster General Hospital, Bewdley Road, Kidderminster, Worcs DY11 6PL Tel: 0522 523424 ext 3167.

Closing date for receipt of applications: March 15, 1990.

THE MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

Director of Finance and Administration

This is an opportunity to join the top echelon of a charity with an acknowledged reputation for pioneering work relating to the mentally ill and mentally handicapped. The Foundation is both a fundraising and grant-making body and it supports medical research and work in the community.

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A commercially astute, qualified accountant is required to work closely with the Director-General in meeting the charity's objectives and with prime responsibility for all aspects of finance and administration at the headquarters in Central London.

Salary is for discussion in the £20,000/£25,000 bracket.

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Charity Appointments

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Monmouth Pharmaceuticals, Laura J. Giffin, 4 Chancery Court, 30 Priory Road, The Surrey Research Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5YF.

City University Senior Administrative Assistant

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For an application form and further details please write to the Deputy Academic Registrar at City University, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0HV, or telephone on 01-253 4399 ext. 3035.

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Informal discussion is welcomed by John Neate, General Manager, on Ascot (0990) 23333 ext'n 2011.

Information pack from Personnel, Heatherwood Hospital, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8AA - ext'n 2388 (24 hour answerphone).

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East Berkshire Health Authority

Richards lost in unfamiliar country

Kingston
Sitting in the commentary box yesterday as England progressed towards their 200-run lead, Michael Holding was offering sympathy for Jeffrey Dujon, who, he suggested, had not had to endure such a lengthy spell in the field, at least during a Test match, for quite some time.

Not only that, but the nature of this Sabina Park pitch had meant that Dujon had been obliged to spend more time than usual coping with the ball either bouncing in front of him or scuttling along the ground at him, with the odd blow to the shoulder



David Gower
The former England captain comments on the third day's play in Jamaica

and arms — and more than a few byes conceded.

Another man out in the field dealing with largely unfamiliar circumstances was the West Indies captain, Viv Richards, who is more used to being in a position of domi-

nance through the power of his bowling attack. His uncertainty showed. The last time West Indies spent a relatively fruitless time in the field against England was at Trent Bridge a couple of years ago, when even this correspondent managed to make a few runs.

The difference between then and now is that at Nottingham, England were bawling to save the match, while here at Kingston it was West Indies who were forced very much on the defensive by the England batsmen, especially during the long partnership between Lamb and Smith. Indeed,

resuming at 80 for two on the second morning, England were confronted by Bishop and Marshall operating to only two slips and a gully, with the rest of the field in orthodox run-saving positions.

One can appreciate Richards's need to restrict England's scoring opportunities, but as soon as Larkins edged one through the gap at third slip, Richards moved the gully there. Later in the day, Lamb and Smith batted with, among other things, a man on the deep cover boundary, even though the opportunities for them to hit the ball for four were not over-plentiful.

Again, when the edge came, this time adjacent to the lone first slip, Richards adopted the stable-door-and-bolting-horse philosophy and rearranged his field accordingly.

There was also scope from the relative comforts of the press and commentary boxes — at least we were not standing out in the 90° heat until six o'clock — to suggest that Richards bowled his spinners too long to no effect. England had proved the value of their four hard-working seamers on the first day, but the West Indies captain relied over-much on young Bishop and the ever-stiving Walsh to

bear the brunt of the pace bowlers' work.

Furthermore, those spinners bowled to such widely spread fields that Lamb, especially, was able to pick up singles at will and thus keep his own and the team's score ticking over nicely. At this stage, Richards had surely gone too far on the defensive; to persevere with his main attack to the same sort of fields that England had employed must have been the answer. Only later in the day, when Walsh and Bishop started to have some success, did the right balance appear to be achieved.

New national stadium plans for Coventry

By Chris Moore and Louise Taylor

The Football Association confirmed last night that there are plans to build a national stadium near Coventry which could become the future venue for England's international matches when the FA's contract with Wembley expires in 12 years' time.

"The question of what we do after the year 2002 needs to be, and is being, considered," an FA spokesman said. "There are a selected number of sites under consideration including the one at Coventry."

But he denied any knowledge of reports that the scheme will be a joint venture with Coventry City under which their Highfield Road headquarters would be knocked down and sold to provide the financial base for the new stadium which Coventry would share.

"All I can say on that is that if we do build a new stadium, we would feel it would need to be used more frequently than just for international matches," the spokesman said. "But at the moment exactly what shape or form it will take is too early to say. There is nothing actually on the drawing board and it is only a game of an idea at present, although, as I have said, we are in the process of discussing what will happen when our contract with Wembley expires. That decision is being considered and all options are open."

The proposed site for the Coventry stadium is understood to be north of the city beside the junction of the M6 and M69.

It would rival plans to build a similar complex at the National Exhibition Centre near Birmingham. That involves the Ballast Nedam company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of British Aerospace, which has built stadi-

ums in The Netherlands. Wembley has played host to England's international matches, and FA and League Cup finals since it was built in 1923. The contract between it and the FA, which was negotiated by Ted Croker during the 1970s, does not expire until 2002.

With a capacity of 80,000, it is already an all-seater stadium, which, according to the FA, would need "only minor alterations, at a relatively minor cost" in order to comply with the demands of the Taylor Report.

The spokesman said that Wembley was "very much" one of "numerous" venues we are considering for after 2002. If Wembley is discarded, it will spell the end of a financial relationship the FA has enjoyed with the stadium, whereby 25 per cent of all football attendance receipts go to Wembley Stadium.

George Curtis, Coventry's managing director, said last night he was unaware of any plans that would involve the club moving from Highfield Road.

"It is the first I have heard of, although, since the Taylor Report, we, like most clubs, have been looking into the overall question surrounding future planning for an all-seater stadium. We have set up a three-man sub-committee to look into all aspects of the matter and are due to report back the board of directors next month. As things stand, we have a very nice stadium at Highfield Road and a good relationship with the police and local authorities. We have not considered moving anywhere else."

"If there was a situation involving a new national stadium on our doorstep, then it would obviously come down to the question of what would be best for Coventry City."

Ticket prices soar for Cambridge tie

By Louise Taylor

Whoever heard of supporters paying £50 to watch Cambridge United? It may sound far-fetched but black-market tickets for the FA Cup fifth round second replay tonight with Bristol City at the Abbey Stadium are exchanging hands at 10 times their £5 face value.

Cambridge, the fourth division side, are unbeaten in the 11 matches since John Beck, the manager, succeeded Chris Turner. The hosts are unchanged but Bristol are hampered by an extensive injury list.

Charlton Athletic aim to complete a treble of first division victories for the first time since October 1986 when they faced the champions Arsenal tonight at Selhurst Park. Charlton, managed by Lesie Lawrence, appeared to be condemned to relegation to the second division but recent successes against Luton Town and Manchester City

have re-kindled flickerings of revival.

History is not on Charlton's side as the last time they defeated Arsenal was in 1956. Providing they beat Derby County at Anfield, Liverpool will topple Aston Villa from the top of the first division. Kenny Dalglish's team are unbeaten in the 11 matches since John Beck, the manager, succeeded Chris Turner. The hosts are unchanged but Bristol are hampered by an extensive injury list.

Dalglish believes that Villa's lack of experience of life at the top will count against them. "Whether you are going for the championship or trying to avoid relegation, I think it is important to have been there before," Dalglish said.

Pennock, a reserve central defender, is expected to make his debut for Norwich City at Southampton. In attack, Rosario is unavailable and Coney is omitted, while Allen and Mortensen are likely to fill the vacancies.

Macari lodges appeal

Lou Macari and Brian Hillier have appealed against punishments imposed by the Football Association which found them guilty of involvement in placing a bet in breach of its regulations (Louise Taylor writes).

Hillier, the Swindon chairman, was suspended from football for six months after betting on the Wiltshire club to lose an FA Cup match

against Newcastle United. Macari, formerly manager at the County Ground, who last week resigned from West Ham United, the club he joined from Swindon last summer, was fined £1,000 and censured at a hearing at Lancaster Gate this month. His resignation from Upton Park was partly prompted by the refusal of West Ham to support his appeal.

England's dream comes closer

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
Kingston

England, playing like men in an inspired dream, brought the unthinkable ever nearer to reality here yesterday. Their first victory over the West Indies in 16 long and painful years was looking increasingly probable as, on a pitch of unreliable bounce, Viv Richards's side fought grimly for survival.

In a ground less than half full, it took the West Indies a further 52 balls to claim the two remaining England wickets. In the process they conceded precisely the 22 runs England needed to impose further psychological damage. A deficit of 200 somehow intimidates a team so much more than 199.

Then, with the cricket tense and atmospheric, England dismissed Haynes, Richardson and Greenidge by mid-afternoon, with West Indies still well short of halfway towards making the visitors bat again.

There had been times, during their unaccustomed five sessions in the field, when the West Indians appeared thoroughly deflated, and neither Richards nor his senior bowler, Marshall, were making any visible effort to lift them. Richards seemed content to inflict a torpor on proceedings, as if England's batsmen might repeat West Indian indiscretions and depart through boredom. Marshall's passive role was equally hard to fathom.

England's surprise at this early indication of vulnerability was voiced, with typical candour, by Allan Lamb. Asked if he felt the bowlers had been discouraged by the slow pitch, he said: "When they get a wicket they can suddenly double the pace — we've seen it so often. But when you get on top of them, their heads go down quite quickly."

This stopped thankfully short of the infamous short of the infamous remark made by another English South African, back in 1976. Tony Greig's "grovel" comment came back to haunt him, but he was, in his own way, making the same point as Lamb, who went on to talk specifically of Marshall. "It

Best for decade

England's first-innings total of 364 was their best against West Indies since they made 370 at the Oval in 1968, and their best in the Caribbean since they made 448 at Georgetown in 1973-74 (Richard Lockwood writes). They achieved a first-innings lead of 200 over West Indies for the first time since the Headingley Test in 1969. The last time they did so in the West Indies was in 1967-68.

The fourth-wicket partnership of 172 between Lamb and Smith was the biggest for England against West Indies since Boycott and Amlin scored 289 for the first wicket at Port of Spain in 1973-74. Lamb made his fifth Test century against West Indies.

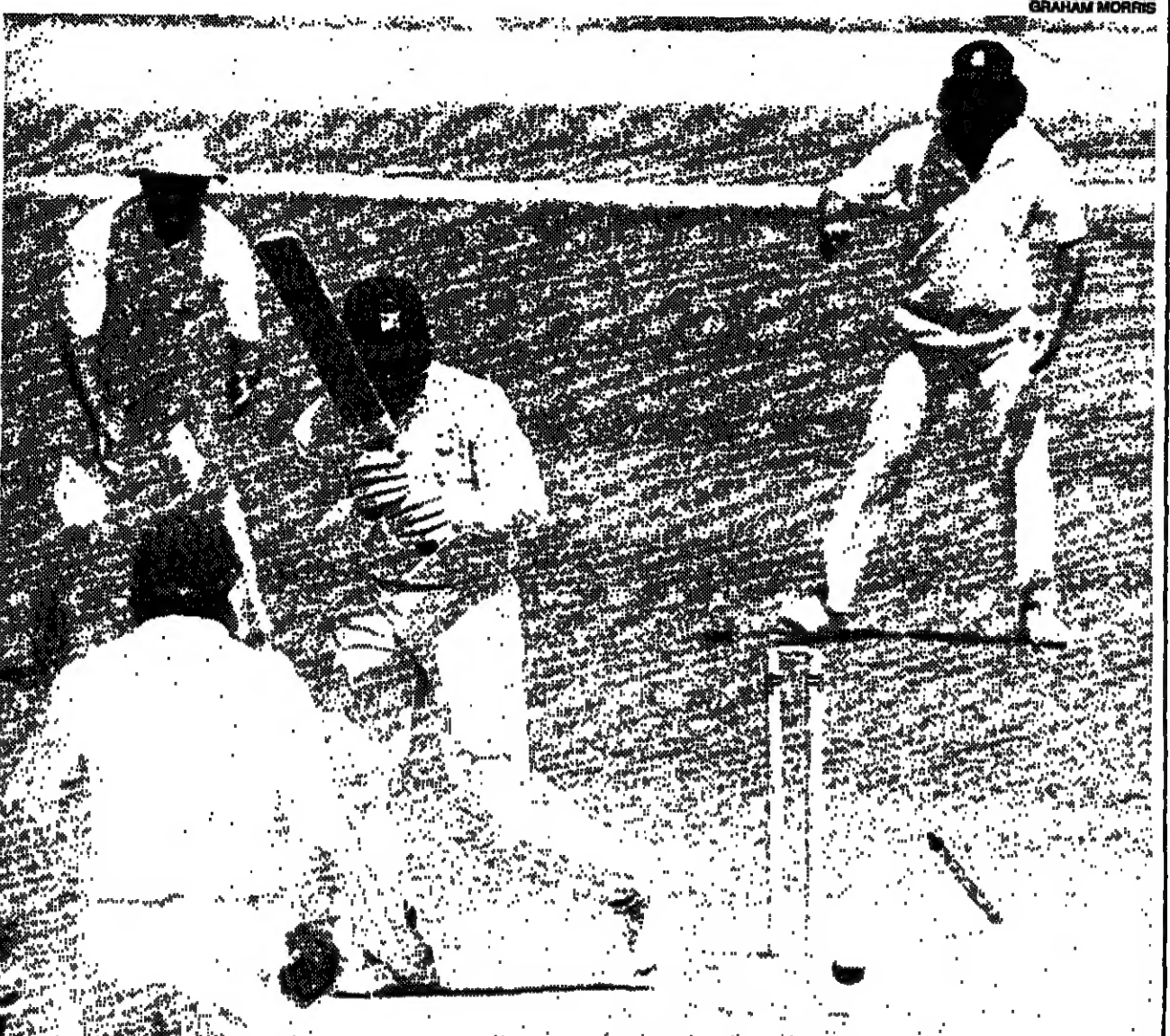
looked his sort of wicket. With his skiddy action I thought he would be dangerous. I was surprised he bowled so little and, after one early spell, he virtually threw in the towel."

Marshall certainly throttled back very rapidly. He also bowled only 18 of the innings's 109.2 overs, and whereas not so long ago he would routinely have been given the ball yesterday morning, Richards preferred Bishop and Walsh against the tail.

Walsh is the labourer of the West Indian attack, the willing one who refuses to allow his demeanour or delivery to be dissipated by circumstances. How they need him here, and how richly he deserves his final figures of five for 68 — the second consecutive Test, and both on his home ground, in which he has taken five in an innings.

Russell had sensibly fanned the strike when England resumed. His batting, relying as much on individualism as did his predecessor and mentor, Allan Knott, has improved beyond recognition, and it was fascinating, before play yesterday, to observe his chosen mode of practice. In full, helmeted uniform he ducked and weaved like a boxer as a team-mate lobbed balls, underarm, at his head and shoulders.

The way this pitch had now begun to play, he might have been better employed facing balls rolled along the ground. More and more of the bowling was endangering ankles rather than heads and no-one suffered more graphically than the wicketkeeper, Dujon, whose best efforts could not prevent 23 byes.



Try this for openers: Malcolm's yorker gets through Haynes's defence to give England their first wicket yesterday

SCOREBOARD FROM SABINA PARK

West Indies won toss

WEST INDIES

First Innings 164 (A R C Fraser 5 for 28)

C G Greenidge c Hussain b Malcolm	36	4	143	22	
D L Haynes b Malcolm	14	2	34	22	
R A Richardson lbw b Fraser	25	10	4	83	55
A J Best not out	0	0	0	0	0
C L Hooper not out	0	0	0	0	0
Extras (b 2)	0	0	0	0	0
Total (2 wickets)	87				

To bat: V A Richards, J P J L Dujon, M D Marshall, I R Bishop, C A Walsh, B P Patterson.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-69, 3-87.

BOWLING: Small 7-2-23-0; Malcolm 7-2-13-2; Capel 8-1-29-0; Fraser 7-3-17-1 (1rb).

ENGLAND

First Innings

*G A Gooch c Dujon b Patterson	18	4	54	30	
W Larkins lbw b Walsh	46	6	185	128	
A J Stewart c Best b Bishop	13	3	24	12	
A J Lamb c Hooper b Walsh	122	16	382	208	
R A Smith c Best b Bishop	57	8	215	160	
N Hussain c Dujon b Bishop	13	1	39	17	
D J Capel c Richardson b Walsh	5	1	27	21	
TR C Russell c Patterson b Walsh	26	3	107	71	
C G Smith not out	0	0	0	0	0
A R C Fraser not out	0	0	0	0	0
D E Malcolm lbw b Walsh	48	4	110	14	
Extras (b 23, lb 12, w 1, nb 12)	48				
Total (108.2 overs)	364				

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-40, 2-80, 3-116, 4-288, 5-315, 6-315, 7-325, 8-399, 9-364.

BOWLING: Patterson 18-2-74-1 (5rb); Bishop 25-5-73-3 (1w); Marshall 18-3-45-1 (2rb); Walsh 27-2-48-5 (7rb); Hooper 9-1-28-0; Richards 9-1-22-0; Best 4-0-19-0.

Umpires: L Barber and S Bucknor.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Girardelli bows out

Marc Girardelli, the defending overall champion, will miss the rest of the World Cup Alpine skiing season because of injuries sustained in a fall in a super-giant slalom over two months ago (Reuters reports from Munich).

Girardelli suffered severe bruising and torn muscles at Sestriere, Italy, in December. After an operation, he raced in two slaloms early in January but internal bleeding developed. "The season is over for me," he said in Munich.

Bowl date

The Los Angeles Raiders and the New Orleans Saints will face each other on August 6 in the fifth American Bowl, the annual National Football League exhibition game at Wembley Stadium.

Joe Erskine

Ingemar Johansson, former world heavyweight champion, and Henry Cooper, are expected at the funeral of Joe Erskine, former British and Empire heavyweight champion, at St Mary's church, Cardiff, today at 1:45pm.



Erreg Cosford outlining

Baseball hitch

New York (AP) — Negotiations in the dispute between major-league baseball owners and the players' union broke off yesterday, further jeopardizing the start of the season, scheduled for April 2.

Kenyan duo

Paul Ereng, Olympic 800 metres champion, will be joined by the world champion, Billy Konchellah, in the Pearl Assurance national indoor championships at Cosford on March 9 and 10. It will be the first time the two Kenyans have met on the track.

Crew rescued as yacht capsizes

By Barry Pickthall

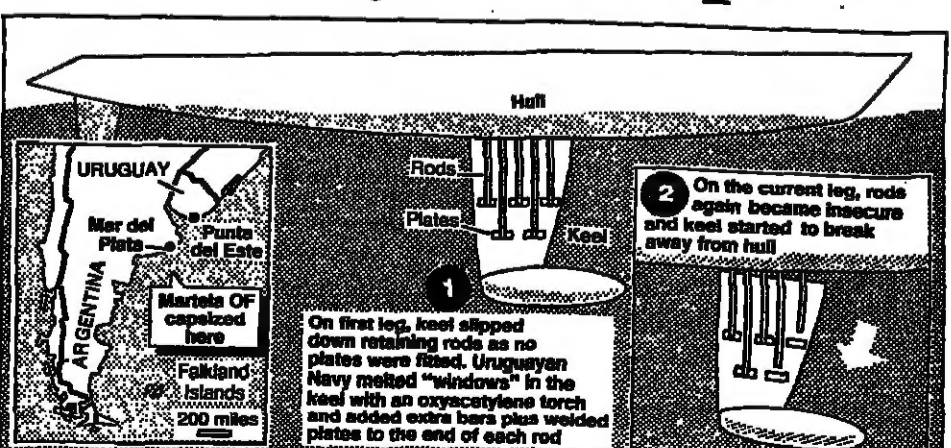
Sixteen crew members of the Finnish Whitbread Round the World Race maxi, Martella OF, were rescued in the Atlantic yesterday by two rival competitors after their yacht lost its keel and capsized 140 miles off the Argentine coast.

Marku Wilkiri, the skipper of Martella, reported to race control the previous night that a 5cm gap had opened up at the forward end of the keel where it joins the hull and that, with the exception of the radio operator, the crew were living on deck with lifejackets and life-rafts at the ready in case the foil broke off.

During the 11:00GMT scheduled radio check, the radio operator broke off from giving their position with the dramatic words: "May Day, May Day. The keel is falling off."

The Argentinian Rescue services were alerted and quickly dispatched a plane, while another light aircraft took off from Punta del Este, 350 miles away, to help.

Three yachts, UBF Finland, the Swiss challenger Merit and the French yacht Charles Jourdan set courses towards the stricken crew.



the scene, followed by Merit, Ludde Ingvall, UBF Finland's skipper, co-ordinated the rescue by radio.

Wilkiri and his 15 crew were found standing on top of Martella's upturned hull shortly after noon, and six were taken onboard Charles Jourdan and the remainder on Merit. Last night both yachts were heading for Punta del Este.

The yacht, which suffered similar keel problems during the latter stages of the first leg of the race, was left to drift and could well be salvaged. When holes were cut into the keel to

inspect the vertical keel bolts that linked the foil to the hull after earlier problems, it was found there were no nuts on the lower ends.

Steinlager 2, Peter Blake's New Zealand race leader was expected to reach Punta del Este late last night, followed closely by Grant Dalton's rival ketch, Fisher & Paykel. Lawrie Smith's leading British challenger was holding third place last night and expected to reach the finish around noon today.

WINNING POSITIONS (compiled at 13:34 GMT yesterday with miles to Punta del Este)

1st	Steinlager 2 (P Blake, NZ), 122 miles; 2nd	Fisher & Paykel (G Dalton, NZ), 201 miles; 3rd	Rossini (J Smith, NZ), 201 miles; 4th	Merit (P Farrer, NZ), 300 miles; 5th	Charles Jourdan (A Goss, NZ), 300 miles; 6th	UBF Finland (J Ingvall, NZ), 300 miles; 7th	Charles Jourdan (A Goss, NZ), 300 miles; 8th	Charles Jourdan (A Goss, NZ), 300 miles; 9th	Charles Jourdan (A Goss, NZ), 300 miles; 10th	Charles Jourdan (A Goss, NZ), 300 miles; 11th	Charles Jourdan (A Goss, NZ), 300 miles; 12th	Charles Jourdan (A Goss, NZ), 300 miles; 13th	Charles Jourdan (A Goss, NZ), 300 miles; 14th	Charles Jourdan (A Goss, NZ), 300 miles; 15th	Charles Jourdan (A Goss, NZ), 300 miles; 16th	Charles Jourdan (A Goss, NZ), 300 miles; 17th	Charles Jourdan (A Goss, NZ), 300 miles; 18th	Charles Jourdan (A Goss, NZ), 300 miles; 19th	Charles Jourdan (A Goss, NZ), 300 miles; 20th
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Lawrie Smith, page 39



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